

REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE
Relief of the Distressed Districts
IN IRELAND,
APPOINTED AT A GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
The City of London Tavern,
On the 7th of MAY, 1822 ;
WITH
AN APPENDIX.

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REPORT.



THE Committee appointed in May, 1822, to conduct the Subscription for the relief of the severe distress for food in Ireland, consider it to be their duty not to close their proceedings without submitting to the subscribers and to the public, an account of the application of the funds which have been entrusted to their care. The confidence and prompt liberality with which those funds were contributed, call for the fullest and most authentic testimony of the important benefits which directly, and collaterally, have resulted to Ireland from this noble exertion of national benevolence.

The Committee hope, that the following report will assist in explaining some of the causes of that severe distress, and may thus be useful in pointing the public attention to measures, by which the return of a similar calamity may be obviated.

In consequence of the alarming accounts which were received of the distressed condition of the poor in the Southern and Western districts of Ireland, an advertisement was signed by several respectable individuals for a public meeting to be held at the City of London Tavern on the 7th of May, 1822, to take this important subject into consideration.

In pursuance of such notice, a numerous meeting of Merchants, Bankers, and others, was held, at which Thomas Wilson, Esq. one of the representatives of the City of London, presided ; his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other distinguished persons, being present.

It was deemed of the first importance, that the objects for which this meeting was convened, should be carried into instant effect. A general subscription for the relief of the distressed districts was therefore immediately commenced, and a Committee chosen to promote the collection, and to direct the application of the sums subscribed.

The example of the metropolis, on this occasion, was promptly followed in many other parts of the kingdom ; and when the real extent of this distress became more generally known, the funds were most opportunely and liberally

increased by the humane and powerful exertions of the clergy, of the ministers of religion of all denominations, and by the influence of the King's letter, which his Majesty instantly and graciously granted to promote these benevolent purposes.

The Committee having unanimously chosen John Smith, Esq. M.P. their Chairman, directed their careful attention, in the first instance, to the principles which should guide them in the execution of their trust; and after due enquiry and deliberation, aided by the local information of some Irish Gentlemen of acknowledged ability, the following resolutions were adopted:

“ That all remittances be made in aid of local contributions, and that the clergy, both Protestant and Catholic, be united in the distribution of relief with the Gentlemen to whom the remittances are specifically sent.”

“ That the principles which this Committee recommend to those whom it may entrust with any portion of its funds, are the following.”

“ That Provisions and Seed Potatoes be sold at *prime cost* to such of the distressed poor as are capable of purchasing upon those terms.”

“ That Provisions and Seed Potatoes be

sold at a *reduced* price to such as are not capable of purchasing at prime cost."

" That payment by instalments be received of such distressed persons as are unable to make any present payments; so that gratuitous assistance may be limited, as far as may be practicable, to those who, from special circumstances, are unable to contribute to their own relief."

" That all persons or public bodies receiving assistance from this Committee, be requested to state the amount of local contributions received, the number of persons assisted, distinguishing those receiving gratuitous assistance from those purchasing at *reduced prices* or at *prime cost*."

Aware of the extent of private benevolence on all occasions of distress, the Committee were induced to recommend local contributions in Ireland, as the basis of the relief to be afforded; not doubting, that the efforts making in England would be seconded by corresponding exertions on the part of persons more immediately interested in the condition of the Irish peasantry.

The policy of avoiding gratuitous distributions, and of relieving the poor, as much as

possible, through the means of their own labour and industry, could not be questioned; and although the direct purpose of the subscription was to relieve a temporary distress, by temporary and instant assistance, the Committee deemed it of the highest importance, to consider how far that object could be accomplished without encouraging a spirit of indolent reliance on extraneous relief.

From the most authentic communications, it appeared, that the bad quality and partial failure of the potatoe crop of the preceding year (the consequence of the excessive and protracted humidity of the season), had been a principal cause of the distress, and that it had been greatly aggravated by the rotting of the potatoes in the pits in which they were stored. This discovery was made at so late a period, that the peasantry were not able to provide against the consequences of that evil.

It was also stated, that from the nearly total want of employment, and the consequent deficiency of means to purchase food, such was the general and extreme distress of the poor in the western and south-western counties of Ireland, that they were almost wholly dependent for their subsistence on the bounty of the few Noblemen and Gentlemen resident in the country; while from many concurrent

causes, the latter class were themselves more than commonly straightened in their circumstances, and being compelled to contract their own expenditure, were unable to extend the usual means of employment to their tenantry. Under these circumstances, the Committee in London lost not a moment in forwarding remittances to Committees of Gentlemen of known respectability in the several counties of Clare, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and Limerick, parts of which were represented to be in the most urgent need of assistance.

The money remitted was directed to be employed in aid of local contributions, in the purchase of food and of potatoes for seed, the want of which could not fail to occasion similar difficulties in the ensuing season. To assist in supplying the ascertained deficiency of this indispensable article of subsistence in Ireland, as well for food as for seed, the Committee determined to offer, by public advertisement, a bounty on the importation, within a limited period, of 1500 tons of potatoes from Great Britain, Jersey or Guernsey into certain ports in Ireland. There being reason, however, to fear, that a very limited quantity of potatoes would be imported under these conditions, and aware of the importance of ensuring a supply to meet, in some degree, the emergency of the case, the Committee ordered

the purchase of large quantities of potatoes in Scotland, on the west and south coast of England, in Kent and Essex, and dispatched them, with the utmost expedition, to all the distressed points on the southern and south-western coasts of Ireland. Directions were likewise given to cause the potatoes, on their arrival, to be distributed for seed, generally throughout the country, and not to be confined to the immediate district, round the sea-port where the cargoes should arrive.*

The distress for want of food was not confined to the counties before enumerated; very

* It will be consoling to shew by the following extract, that this measure proved even more beneficial than was at first expected :—

*Extract of a Letter from the County of Cork, dated
November 29th, 1822.*

“ It will be gratifying to the Committee to learn, that
“ the seed potatoes sent over here, have not only been use-
“ ful in giving a large supply, but also in varying the
“ description of root. Many of the varieties of seed im-
“ ported have been particularly fine both in quality and
“ produce.

“ A single potatoe from the English seed has exceeded
“ 3lbs. in weight. I have seen crops most productive in
“ weight raised after two months cultivation only. This

urgent solicitations were soon made to the Committee from parts of the large and populous county of Cork, and particularly from the baronies along the western coast, where the *dearth was extreme*. The counties of Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Tipperary, in which this distress was supposed to prevail in a less degree, were more partially relieved. From the best local information which could be obtained, it appeared, that the crops were most deficient, and the amount of suffering proportionably greater in remote and mountainous districts, and especially in situations exposed to the inclemency of the weather from their proximity to the sea. Great and complicated misery was found to prevail in the extensive districts of Erris and Connemara, including the several Islands on the coast of Mayo and Galway. The western baronies of the county of Clare (that of Moyarta in particular) were in similar distress, and endured the severest privations, until relieved by grants from Government, and by the liberality of the British public.

“ alteration of seed will confer a lasting benefit on Ireland, and will long preserve the recollections of your interference in a better and more natural manner than any erection of stones and mortar. Independently of this, however, there is, I can assure you, the warmest and most general feeling of gratitude in the minds of the peasantry, which I hope will be handed down from father to son to the latest times.”

The following particulars of the state of the distressed districts reached the Committee early in May, and were fully corroborated by subsequent reports.

“ Every article of provisions is very generally and greatly rising, but there is a very considerable part of our population which has no interest in their rise or fall, because in either case having no employment, they have no means of purchasing, at any rate, subsistence for their families, and I much fear that even in our best times, many of our poor perish, if not by direct starvation, by the effects of scanty, unwholesome and unnutritious diet. Moreover, in these times of great depression, the gentry of the country, who reside upon their estates, and are the natural guardians and supporters of their people, not duly receiving their rents, many, with the best disposition, have it not in their power to afford the relief which their duty and their feelings would dictate. In short, if it could be proved, that provisions of all kinds were in plenty, and at very reduced prices (neither of which is now the case) still we should be in want.”

In order to give to the Subscribers and the public some details, from the actual representations of those applying for relief, extracts from

the extensive correspondence of the Committee are inserted in the Appendix. It is feared, that notwithstanding all the means and precautions taken, many individuals fell the victims of famine, or of disease, the consequence of scanty and unwholesome food. In parts of the county of Clare many cases occurred of a most lamentable character. The Committee for the Barony of Ibrechin describe the wretched condition of the people in these terms: "And " after having, like living spectres, wandered " through the country, for a few days, in search " of food, at length they feel exhausted, and " in this state are attended by their clergy paratory to death: the attending clergy testifying by their signatures the full verification " of the fact."

In other parts of the country, hundreds of families have been known to abandon their dwellings, and to beg the scanty means of support from their less miserable fellow creatures, or were compelled to have recourse to the wild productions of the field, as substitutes for their usual food. The same desolating cause reduced thousands to the hard necessity of selling all their effects, including their clothing and bedding, and in some cases even the iron pot for boiling their potatoes.

Such a state of things could not long con-

tinue without engendering contagious diseases. In Connaught, the ravages of fever, dysentery, and cholera morbus were severely felt. The town of Galway was peculiarly the focus of disease; the wretched peasantry from Connemara and the western parts of that county having been driven in great numbers into that town by the extremity of distress. By the care and vigilance of His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, who humanely visited in person this scene of misery, many hundreds of the distressed were supplied with food on the spot, and then conveyed to their homes, previous arrangements having been made for their further relief.

It was ascertained from various and respectable sources of information, that in some parts of the distressed districts, an actual deficiency of food existed; but the Committee were at the same time convinced, that this was not the case to a very extended degree, and that, in general, the necessaries of life could be procured by the peasantry, if pecuniary means were afforded to them.

This was accounted for, not only by the want of employment, and the distress of the higher classes, but by the sudden contraction of the circulating medium, occasioned by the

failure of many country banks, nearly at the same period of time.

The Committee, therefore, took the best measures in their power to convey relief, in money, as promptly as possible, to all quarters where it was proved that the distress arose from want of means to purchase, rather than from absolute scarcity of food. Unwilling to lose any opportunity of conveying assistance, through safe and respectable channels, they availed themselves of the valuable services of the Protestant and Catholic Bishops, and of other ecclesiastical dignitaries, at whose disposal various sums of money were placed for their personal distribution, in such cases of severe distress as might come under their own particular observation.

The expediency of sending supplies of meal and other provisions, was frequently taken into the serious consideration of the Committee; but, as in reply to their circulars on this important topic, it appeared, that there was a considerable quantity of food in Ireland, the Committee were disposed to leave the markets, for the most part, to their own natural level. At the same time, the pressing distress of *particular* districts, which were greatly deficient in food, rendered an immediate supply of some provision from this country highly ne-

cessary. Many cargoes of meal, and large quantities of biscuit, were accordingly sent to Kilrush, Westport, Galway, Kenmare, and other ports for the relief of those places, and of the adjacent districts. The general distress, however, appearing rapidly and alarmingly to increase, towards the end of June, the Committee resolved, after much and anxious discussion, to send a further and considerable supply of food to the more distressed districts, and a sum of ten thousand pounds was appropriated to this purpose. A Select Committee was appointed to attend to this object, rendered still more pressing by the urgent representations received from Ireland; and further cargoes of meal and biscuit were purchased in Scotland, in the western ports of England, and in London, which were dispatched with the utmost promptitude. This appropriation was followed, soon afterwards, by the application of a similar sum to the same important purpose, and directions were given to cause the distribution of this relief to be made, as quickly and as extensively beneficial as possible. With a view also to check, in some degree, the progress of epidemical disease, as well as to supply a cheap and wholesome food, the Committee directed a quantity of rice (the duty on which Government was pleased to remit) to be forwarded in the same direction, intended chiefly for the use of the sick and

of children. Remittances were made, at the same time, to the several Committees, to be especially applied to the relief of the poor labouring under sickness; fevers and other dangerous diseases having become very prevalent. *Pecuniary aid was, likewise, appropriated to Hospital establishments at Galway, Castlebar, &c. with a view of affording some additional comforts to the increasing numbers in need of such assistance.*

At the beginning of July, when the urgent claims for immediate succour had nearly exhausted the subscription, it was most seasonably recruited by the large collections made by the established clergy and the ministers of religion of all denominations.

The ample assistance derived from this source enabled the Committee to proceed with confidence, and to continue their supplies, until the providential relief afforded by an early and most abundant harvest, had rendered further aid in food no longer necessary.

It was thought advisable, for the greater satisfaction of the Committee, to send confidential agents into the distressed districts, to inspect personally the mode of distribution of the funds, and of the provisions transmitted, with instructions to render every assistance in their

power to the local Committees, in the discharge of the arduous duties confided to them, and to report fully to the Committee.

From their reports, the Committee are strongly impressed with the belief, that the bounty of the British nation, with very few exceptions, has been impartially, and most usefully administered. The statements of distress which had been transmitted from the south and south-western counties of Ireland were confirmed by the personal observation of these agents, who carefully examined the condition of the poor in their cabins, and formed, from their own observation, their judgment upon all the points to which their instructions referred.

The agents have also collected abundant evidence of the deep and universal feeling of gratitude which this generous relief had created in Ireland : a feeling not confined to the immediate objects of assistance.

The returns which they were enabled to procure, added to the reports received directly from the several Committees, and from most respectable individuals to whom the remittances were made, have clearly proved, that a very considerable part of the population of the south and west were involved in the common cala-

mity, and that a large portion of it had been *preserved from very severe distress, or from actual famine*, during the interval between the early part of May and the end of August, 1822.

While the Committee were employed in transmitting relief to the most remote districts, similar measures were pursuing in Dublin under the care and direction of the Mansion House Committee. Considerable sums were also sent direct from Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, and many other places in England and Scotland. But these aids, great as they were, must have proved totally inadequate, without the liberal and seasonable Grants of Parliament administered by the Commissioners appointed under the direction of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

It is not possible to form an accurate estimate of the extent of the private contributions in Ireland during the urgency of the recent distress, but it is well known, that the most active and generous efforts were made by the resident proprietors. Pecuniary contributions were raised very generally in each of the distressed counties, some particulars of which will be found in the Appendix. It is proper, however, to remark, that in many instances the contributions in money form an inconsiderable part of the local relief afforded. Employ-

ment was given to *their poorer neighbours by all who possessed the means*, until their inability to continue this humane assistance obliged the peasantry to have recourse to other sources of relief.

On reference to the general application of the means placed at the disposal of the several Committees in Ireland, it appears, that after the urgent demand for potatoes for seed had been in some measure supplied, the greater portion of the money remitted to them was laid out in the purchase of meal which was daily distributed, according to the regulations prescribed by the Committee. Soup kitchens were established in several places with the most beneficial effect. In the town of Linstowel, a list was taken every day of the number and names of the persons assisted, from which it appears, that upwards of 1800 were daily fed with a cheap, wholesome, and nourishing diet, for the space of 10 weeks, at the small expense of £270.

It is satisfactory to state, as one effect of those applications, that a considerable degree of local improvement has been effected, by the employment of the poor in various works of utility; and upon this part of the subject it is material to observe, that it was of the utmost

importance to their welfare, that the money subscribed for the distressed poor, should be obtained through the medium of some measure of industry, and should not be given gratuitously. The government of Ireland had most judiciously directed, that small local objects *of employment should rather be sought for*, than that the peasantry should be drawn from their homes to labour upon any great public works, even if such works could, with sufficient promptitude, have been laid out for execution.

Every opportunity, therefore, was taken to render the roads leading to their markets, and especially to their turbary grounds, safe and practicable,—and as the poor, at an early stage of this distress, were so much debilitated as to be unable to prepare the usual store of turf for their winter's fuel, the local Committees very properly permitted them, when their strength was somewhat renovated, to receive the allotted portion of food, while they were occupied in making that indispensable provision.

As the time approached when it became necessary to withhold further supplies, the Committee considered, that it would be an act of kindness to the peasantry to apprise them beforehand of this necessity.

An address was accordingly prepared, early in the month of August, and circulated very generally throughout the distressed districts. It is due to the distressed poor of Ireland to state, that this communication was received by them with every mark of grateful respect *and acknowledgment*.

The Committee having ascertained by their enquiries, that from the augmented means of sustenance, and of employment arising from the harvest, the poor might safely be left to their accustomed resources after the month of August;—and the Irish Government having also notified an intention of discontinuing their grants after the 16th of that month, it was determined to call a Special General Meeting of the Committee, to take into consideration the most eligible mode of applying the balance of the subscription remaining at their disposal.

Whilst it was considered doubtful, whether the subscription would prove sufficient to meet the demands for necessary food, the Committee were unwilling to encourage applications not immediately arising out of that distress which it was their first duty to relieve; but the crisis of this national calamity being past, it was deemed expedient, and not inconsistent with the nature of the trust confided to

them, to enlarge their views in the application of the surplus funds.

At a full meeting of the Committee appointed for the consideration of this subject, they entered into a general review of their transactions; and being satisfied, by all the best information from Ireland, that the immediate purpose of the subscription had been accomplished, the Committee resolved to dispose of the balance (estimated at £60,000) in the following manner :

£5,000—To the Board of Fisheries, for the assistance of poor fishermen, to enable them to resume their accustomed modes of gaining their livelihood.

5,000—(In addition to a like sum previously granted,) to be applied in aid of the General Contribution of Clothing for the use of the most indigent in the distressed districts.

2,000—For the Relief of extraordinary cases of Distress.

5,000—In aid of the Funds of the Mansion House Committee of Dublin, to be applied to the promotion of Indus-

try in the distressed districts of the south and west of Ireland.

1,500—To a Society formed in London for improving the condition, and increasing the comforts of the Irish peasantry.

1,500—To the British and Irish Ladies Society, for improving the condition and promoting the industry and welfare of the Female Peasantry of Ireland.

40,000—To be appropriated under Trustees to the encouragement and assistance of the Poor of the distressed Provinces of Ireland, in the manufacture of Flax and Wool, by means of small loans repayable with interest.

£60,000,

The grant of £5,000 to the Board of Fisheries was made, in addition to the sum of £2,000, previously voted in aid of their funds, and chiefly applied to the construction of small piers for the protection of the fishery boats. The grant of £5,000 was directed to be appropriated solely to the benefit of the fisher-

men of the distressed districts, on the plan of the Charitable Loan Societies. It was hoped, that assistance in this way would enable them, to provide the necessary materials to repair and equip their boats, and that they might thereby be put in a condition to resume their usual occupations. Although some difficulties were at first apprehended by the Commissioners of the Fishery Board, in carrying these plans into effect, on account of the inability of the poorer fishermen, to give the necessary security for the small sums to be advanced to them, the Committee have the best reasons to hope, from subsequent communications, that these obstacles will gradually be removed.

The Trustees appointed by this Committee for the encouragement of industry in the counties of Cork and Kerry, having undertaken, at the request of the Dublin Commissioners, (with the assistance of the Fishery Officers,) to direct the management of the Loan Fund, in aid of the fishermen on the coast of their respective counties; and it being presumed, that similar cooperation will hereafter be obtained from the Trustees of the other maritime districts, the Committee are led to entertain the most sanguine hopes, that this grant will prove a substantial and *permanent* advantage to those for whose relief it was specially intended.

In rendering an account of the aid which has been afforded in clothing (the want of which had been greatly increased in consequence of the general distress,) the Committee have to acknowledge, that this mode of relief has not been unattended with difficulty. Notwithstanding the liberal donations by the public of articles of clothing for Ireland, and the direct appropriation of more than £11,000 out of the General Fund, to the same purpose; the greater portion of the distressed poor on the south and west of Ireland must, in this particular, still remain unassisted. The Committee were induced, by various considerations, to prescribe bounds to their expenditure under this head, fearing to extend too far the principle of gratuitous assistance, which tends to relax the industry, and to lower the moral feeling and character of the poor. It was not possible, however, wholly to resist the frequent and urgent calls for this special relief; more particularly, as they had been informed of the laudable exertions made by the Ladies of this country, who had formed themselves into Committees, for the purpose of procuring articles of clothing for the most distressed and destitute. Of the £11,000 so appropriated, £7,000 were remitted in due proportions to the Central Committees of ten of the most distressed counties, to be employed in the purchase of articles of Irish manufacture, (in

most cases to be made up by the poor themselves) and the remaining sum of £4,000 was laid out in the purchase of blankets, and such articles of clothing as could be procured on better terms in this country. To the benevolent Committee of Ladies, has been assigned the task of directing the distribution of the whole of these donations; and this they have been enabled to effect, with the greatest advantage to the poor, by means of the several Ladies Associations in Ireland, with whom they have established a regular correspondence. Although it was not practicable wholly to supply the wants of the very numerous applicants, the Committee have the satisfaction of knowing, that relief has been afforded in many cases of extreme necessity; and they are enabled to anticipate for the poor a more effectual and permanent relief in future, from the judicious measures and persevering exertions of the Ladies Associations now very generally established in the south and west of Ireland.

In apportioning the last grant of £40,000 for the encouragement of industry, by promoting some means of profitable employment in the growth of flax, and the manufacture of linen and wool, the Committee have acted on the concurring testimony of the most enlightened and practical friends of the poor, both in England and Ireland.

After mature consideration, they were of opinion, that they could not better apply the surplus funds, than by devoting them chiefly to the encouragement of a manufacture, not wholly unknown to the south of Ireland, and particularly well adapted to improve the habits and condition of the peasantry.

The manufacture which the Committee found it expedient to recommend, was that of the *coarser* kind of linens, which had already been partially introduced into the south of Ireland by the Irish Government. This could not, in the smallest degree, interfere with the trade in the finer linens, so extensively and beneficially established in the north of Ireland.

The resolution directing the appropriation of this large grant, includes the manufacture of wool, in order to afford an opportunity for the application of a portion of the fund to that useful branch of domestic industry, where local circumstances may render it suitable. On the western coasts of Ireland, the poverty of the inhabitants, and the prevailing humidity of the climate, render this domestic manufacture an object worthy of especial and constant attention,

Having appropriated £40,000 to the ten

counties on an estimated proportion, it was determined to confide the execution of this important measure of relief to the resident Gentlemen of each county, without whose zealous and active co-operation, no plan whatever could be permanently successful. Trustees were accordingly chosen for each county, who were requested to associate for the purpose of carrying these objects into effect. To these Trustees was confided the management of the funds, and the appointment of District Committees, for the purpose of conducting the details of the business under their own immediate superintendence. A Board of Directors was also appointed in London, to whom the Trustees are to make annual returns of the administration of this grant.

It will be seen by these regulations, and by the several resolutions annexed to this report, that the money so appropriated, is to be advanced, on security, upon the reproductive principle of the charitable Loan Societies already established with success in various parts of Ireland; the loans to be made to a limited extent, in the materials and implements of manufacture only, and to be repayable, by instalments, within a certain period. As far as the Committee are at present enabled to form a judgment, they may fairly anticipate the most beneficial results from this endeavour to esta-

blish, on behalf of the poorer classes, a system of regular and profitable employment. Some interval of time however must elapse, before the experiment can be fully tried, and before the plan can receive the improvements and advantages to be derived only from practice and experience.

Independently of the grants made to the Committees and other public bodies, the abundant generosity of the British public has enabled the Committee to extend some assistance for the special relief and protection of the distressed *female* peasantry and their children. In the distribution of this relief, several Ladies of distinguished humanity undertook personally to superintend the distribution of flax and wool, receiving back the yarn, and disposing of the produce of their labour, so as to enable the poor to continue this beneficial course of employment.

The returns made to the Committee by these public spirited individuals, evince the most economical and careful application of the funds entrusted to them. A narrative of the proceedings of a Lady in the county of Mayo, reported in the appendix, affords the most gratifying evidence of the excellent effects resulting from her laudable attentions to the poor in her neighbourhood.

Among the proposals for giving employment to the female poor, a plan for introducing a new kind of straw plat manufacture into Ireland, was deemed worthy of attention. The Committee were induced to give encouragement to this species of industry, by a knowledge of the effect produced by a somewhat similar experiment among the inhabitants of the Orkney Islands. There is every reason to hope that it will become a productive source of profitable employment. The attempt is now making in the neighbourhood of Cahir, in the county of Tipperary, under the immediate observation and assistance of the charitable association of that town.

In justice to the people for whose relief these funds have been administered, the Committee have great satisfaction in stating, that the bounty of the British public was distinctly declined, when it became no longer necessary for the relief of urgent distress. A strict account was rendered of the balance remaining in the hands of the respective Committees to whom the funds had been entrusted.

This circumstance, together with the large surplus which the Committee were enabled to devote to the permanent improvement of those districts, affords honourable proof, not only that the leading object of the subscription has

been accomplished, but that the funds have not been wasted in extravagant or interested objects. The records of the Committee abound with the warmest expressions of gratitude for this timely relief. Impressed with the conviction, that the Irish people will give substantial proofs of this, their characteristic quality, the Committee may be allowed to express their firm belief, that among the many good effects produced by this great subscription, independently of its main purpose, it will be found to have softened many prejudices, to have promoted feelings of mutual kindness and confidence, and to have strengthened the bond of union between the two countries.

The records of the Committee contain, also, numerous proofs of the manly and patient fortitude with which the extremities of distress were sustained, and many striking instances in which this spirit induced the peasantry to conceal the real extent of their sufferings. It may reasonably be hoped, that in consequence of the increased and kindly intercourse between them and the natural guardians of their welfare, and of their experience of the humane and generous sympathy of the British public in their condition, impressions will have been made on the Irish peasantry favourable to their future improvement, and to their future tranquillity.

When the Committee were on the point of closing their proceedings, a very considerable remittance was received in this country from Calcutta, accompanied by the gratifying information, that subscriptions had been entered into at the different Presidencies and dependencies of India.

The British public will perceive, with cordial satisfaction, that not only their fellow subjects in the East have most generously proved their sympathy in the distress of Ireland; but that the Natives of every rank and degree, have liberally contributed to the same beneficent purpose. To the people of Ireland it will be truly consolatory to receive this assurance, that the interest felt for their sufferings, is not more ardent nor more general in England, than it is in the most distant parts of the empire.

Part of this latter remittance has been placed at the disposal of two societies formed in London, the object of which is to promote the industrious employment of the Irish peasantry. To one of these societies, which directs its attention to the improvement of the habits and condition of the Irish poor, the sum of £2500 has been appropriated. This Society was established a short time previously to the formation of the London Committee, and it is the object of this, as well as of a former grant of

£1500, to enlarge the sphere of its useful exertions, and to secure for it a permanent existence. To the British and Irish Ladies Society, patronised by the female branches of the Royal Family, whose attention is exclusively directed to the welfare of the *female* peasantry, a grant of £5000 (in addition to a previous vote of £1500), has also been made in aid of its funds; from the judicious application of which, as explained in detail by their Report, the Committee cannot but anticipate the most gratifying results.

The more urgent and immediate distress having been happily relieved before the arrival of this great contribution from India, the Committee, in applying it to objects which appear to them best calculated to prevent a recurrence of the same evil, have the satisfaction to believe, that they are strictly fulfilling the intentions and wishes of all the subscribers.

JOHN SMITH,

CHAIRMAN.

JULY, 1823.

Appendix.

REQUISITION.

CITY OF LONDON TAVERN,
May 3d, 1822.

A MEETING is earnestly desired at the CITY OF LONDON TAVERN, on Tuesday next, the 7th inst. at One o'clock precisely, to consider of a General Subscription for some immediate assistance in the extreme temporary Distress of the Southern Provinces of Ireland :

JOHN SMITH,
C. H. TURNER,
DAVISON & SIMPSON,
BARCLAY BROTHERS & Co.
CHARLES FLOWER,
J. W. BUCKLE,
JOHN PERRING,
THOMAS STURGE, Junr.
JOHN JACOB
WILLIAM THOMPSON,
R. H. MARTEN,
SAMUEL DIXON,
BISHOP OF NORWICH,
——— ALEXANDER,
——— SAUMAREZ, R. N.
CLAUDE SCOTT,
Z. MACAULEY & BABINGTON,
WILLIAM HALDIMAND,
THOMAS BAINBRIDGE,
REID, IRVING & Co.
SMITH, INGLIS & Co.

WM. DAVIS,
EDWARD ELLICE,
J. H. TRITTON,
SAMUEL BOSANQUET,
N. M. ROTHSCHILD,
JOHN ORD,
MATTHIAS ATTWOOD,
JOHN COOPE,
JOHN INNES,
RICHARDSON OVEREND, & Co,
JOHN CAPEL,
MATTHEW WILSON,
EDMUND LARKIN,
HODGSON, BROTHERS, & Co.
J. P. MUSPRATT,
DAWSON, BOYLE & BAILIE,
ISBISTER & HORSLEY,
WILSON & BLANSHARD,
HENRY BLANSHARD,
J. R. & B. N. WILLIAMS,
THOMAS ROWCROFT.

A desire to avoid delay, and a regard for space in the Advertisement, have prevented more numerous Signatures to this Invitation. Any communications will be attended to at the City of London Tavern, from Eleven till Six on Monday.

LIST OF THE COMMITTEE.

His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY,
His Grace the DUKE of DEVONSHIRE,
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of CONYNGHAM,
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of LANSDOWN,
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of DOWNSHIRE,
The Right Honourable the EARL of BLESSINGTON,
The Right Honourable the EARL of MOUNT CHARLES,
The Right Honourable LORD de DUNSTANVILLE,
The Lord BISHOP of NORWICH,
The Lord BISHOP of OXFORD,
The Right Honourable JOHN CHARLES VILLIERS, M.P.
The Right Honourable Colonel RICHARD FITZGIBBON, M.P.
The Right Honourable Sir JOHN NEWPORT, M.P.
The Right Honourable CHARLES GRANT, M.P.
The Right Honourable Wm. VESEY FITZGERALD, M.P.
The Right Honourable HENRY GOULBURN, M.P.
The Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR,
Sir EDWARD O'BRIEN, Bart. M.P.
Sir ROBERT WIGRAM, Bart. M.P.
Sir ROBERT PEEL, Bart. M.P.
Sir J. W. LUBBOCK, Bart.
Sir JOHN PERRING, Bart.
Sir CHARLES FLOWER, Bart.
Major General Sir CHARLES DOYLE, K.C.B.
ALEXANDER JOSIAS DUPRE Esq. M.P.
ALEXANDER LESLIE Esq.
ATTWOOD, MATHIAS Esq. M.P.
ALLEN, WILLIAM Esq.
BROWNE, DOMINICK Esq. M.P.
BROWNE, JAMES Esq. M.P.
BROWNE, PETER Esq. M.P.
BAINBRIDGE, THOMAS Esq.
BOSANQUET, SAMUEL Esq.
BARCLAY, DAVID Esq.
BUCKLE, J. W. Esq.
BROWN, Mr. Alderman
BRADSHAW, JOSEPH HOARE Esq.
BULLER, CORNELIUS Esq.
BOWDEN, JAMES Esq.
BLAKE, A. R. Esq.

BARNEWALL, THOMAS Esq.
 BARNEWALL, HENRY Esq.
 BELL, WILLIAM Esq.
 COLLETT, EBENEZER JOHN Esq. M.P.
 CHAPMAN, ABEL Esq.
 CCGHLAN, Capt. R.N. C.B.
 CATOR, JOHN Esq.
 CLARKE, WM. STANLEY Esq.
 CUNNINGHAM, WILLIAM Esq.
 COLTSMAN, JOHN Esq.
 DALY, JAMES Esq. M.P.
 DEACON, JOHN Esq.
 ELLICE, EDWARD Esq. M.P.
 FREELING, FRANCIS Esq.
 FITZGERALD, JOHN Esq.
 FULTON, J. W. Esq.
 GRENFELL, PASCOE Esq. M.P.
 GRATAN, HENRY Esq.
 GARRATT, Mr. Alderman
 GUTHRIE, JOHN Esq.
 GREGG, THOMAS Junr. Esq.
 HARMAN, JEREMIAH Esq.
 HARVEY, G. C. Esq.
 HOLLAND, S. C. Esq.
 HAWES, BENJAMIN Esq.
 HOWELL, THOMAS Esq.
 INNES, JOHN Esq. M.P.
 JOHNSTON, JOHN Junr. Esq.
 JELICOE, JOSEPH Esq.
 JACOB, JOHN Esq.
 LETT, JOHN Esq.
 LUNELL, J. P. Esq.
 MARTEN, ROBERT H. Esq.
 MUSPRATT, JOHN PETTY Esq.
 MACNAMARA, M. Esq.
 MCKENZIE, A. J. Esq.
 MATHEW, Rev. GEORGE
 O'BRIEN, LUCIUS Esq.
 PATTISON, JAMES Esq.
 RICE, THOMAS SPRING Esq. M.P.
 RICE, STEPHEN H. Esq.
 REID, THOMAS Esq.
 ROWCROFT, THOMAS Esq.
 RAIKES, W. M. Esq.
 ROTHSCHILD, N. M. Esq.
 RICHARDSON, THOMAS Esq.

SMITH, JOHN Esq. M.P.
 SMITH, JOHN ABEL Esq.
 STEVEN, ROBERT Esq.
 STEWART, EDWARD Junr. Esq.
 STOW, DANIEL Esq.
 THOMPSON, Mr. Alderman, M.P.
 THORNTON, C. G. Esq.
 TRITTON, J. H. Esq.
 TULK, CHARLES AUGUSTUS Esq.
 THORPE, Mr. Alderman
 TURNER, C. H. Esq.
 TROY, MICHAEL WILLIAM Esq.
 TRANT, WILLIAM HENRY Esq.
 TOWERS, CHRISTOPHER Esq.
 VENABLES, Mr. Alderman
 VAUGHAN, WILLIAM Esq.
 WELLESLEY, RICHARD Esq. M.P.
 WILSON, THOMAS Esq. M.P.
 WELLS, JOHN Esq. M.P.
 WHITE, LUKE Esq. M.P.
 WIGRAM, WILLIAM Esq. M.P.
 WATSON, JOSHUA Esq.

City of London Tavern,
 May 8th, 1832.

AT a Meeting of the Committee,
 Resolved,

That the following Gentlemen be requested to become
 a Committee of Treasury and Accounts:

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P.
 THOMAS BAINBRIDGE, Esq.
 THOMAS REID, Esq.

May 9th.

Resolved,

That Messrs. SMITH, PAYNE & SMITH be the Bankers
 to this Subscription.

That the offer of MICHAEL WILLIAM TROY, Esq. to be
 the Honorary Secretary of this Committee be accepted.

*Extracts from the Correspondence of the
Committee.*

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REPRESENTATIONS OF DISTRESS.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, dated Tuam,
May 13th, 1822.*

In Westport, and Castlebar, and here, efforts are making by the gentry and other inhabitants, but in truth the state of the times operates sadly upon us all; in the same proportion as the lower orders are reduced, the higher orders are incapacitated to afford them relief. The county of Mayo, I believe, is in much greater want than this, if that can be, which you will scarcely think possible, when I detail to you the state of this immediate neighbourhood, and I am sorry to say, that many parts of this county are even worse than this, wherein there are no resident gentlemen to afford them any thing; for even the Clergymen are unable to assist them, being in most instances nearly deprived of their whole income.

We divide the poor of a district of two miles round this town into two classes; the one, from *total* want of employment, entirely destitute of any means to procure subsistence for themselves and families at any price; the other, able to provide provisions at reduced prices. By a census taken of these two classes, the former amounted to 2027, and the latter to 2047. Besides these, there is a third class consisting of large families from other distressed counties, particularly Mayo, who are some staying, others passing and repassing through the town seeking food. Potatoes in these counties there are very few, nothing like what is necessary to sow the land. I am disposed to believe there is an ample

quantity of oatmeal, but at much too high a price even for the means of those who have any means.● I should not be surprised if this article should at the latter end of the season fall in price, for I am taught to believe a great abundance is in store waiting for still more advanced prices. This is a melancholy picture, and to much of which, under existing circumstances, I can see no termination.

From Connell O'Donel, Esq. Seamount, County of Mayo, 14th May, 1822.

At the same time being well acquainted with the lively feelings you have for the wants of your fellow creatures, I will not delay the subject further, as never was misery and starvation so prevalent as in this parish and neighbourhood—melancholy to witness; people fainting in the streets, from weakness occasioned by hunger and want; actually in Achill *they are getting the seed out of the ground to consume by way of some nourishment.*

From B. Foyne, Esq. Sligo, dated May 14th, 1822.

Besides, poverty and distress are not confined to the lowest, but as you and I too know, have reached the more respectable and hitherto independent classes.

From Cornelius O'Callaghan, Esq. Tulla, County of Clare, dated 18th May, 1822.

I was distributing meal from eight this morning until six o'clock,—such misery and such starvation I never expected to witness. Many on getting a stone of meal *devoured it raw* from the scale;—many fainting from hunger.

I never before saw the Irish spirit broken, but you would meet fathers and mothers not knowing how or where to get a supper for their families, crying and bewailing their hard lot, that after having lived honestly all their lives they should be reduced to rob and steal to support life. I scarce get a moments sleep, such is my anxiety.

From the Rev. John A. Jagoe, Skull Glebe, Skibbereen, County of Cork, dated May 18th, 1822.

I assure you that I know more than twenty families in my immediate neighbourhood who have been subsisting on scarcely any thing besides nettles and weeds, which they pick up in the corn fields for the last fortnight. A very great number of cows have died in this country of starvation; in every such case that has happened within the last month, the carcase has been eagerly sought after by the poor starving people.

From J. D. Browne, Esq. of Mount Browne, in the County of Mayo, dated May 19th, 1822.

From the very enfeebled state of the people, occasioned by want of nourishment, they are literally incapable of undertaking their occupations usual at this period of the year, such as turf cutting and other employment necessary for their future existence.

From the Rev. W. R. Smith, Castlebar, County of Mayo, dated 20th May, 1822.

In the course of last week, there was a family, who, on the point of starvation, took a sheep out of a neighbouring field, killed it, ate one half, and brought the remainder to the owner. A similar case occurred yesterday, with regard to a pig. I have myself witnessed several persons fall down, as if in fits, from weakness, and the pale and emaciated looks of our peasantry, speak in language that cannot be misunderstood, what they are suffering from starvation.

From the Rev. Edward Jones Alcock, of Durrus, near Bantry, County of Cork, dated May 20th, 1822.

To my own knowledge, some of these wretched people have passed days successively without having a regular meal dressed in their houses; subsisting merely on the small shell fish and sea weed they have gathered on the shore: and it was only within the last three days, that in the course of

ministerial duty, I visited a family of eight in number; the woman of the house was so far recovered from fever as to be enabled to attend upon the others, but her husband and their three children were stretched upon the pallets of straw on an earthen floor, in several stages of the disorder, without a morsel to eat or a farthing to purchase it.

From Daniel Coghlan, Esq. Crookhaven, County of Cork, dated 21st of May, 1822.

I am at a loss for words to describe the truly calamitous starving state of the numerous wretched poor of this country—numbers have *already died for want of food.*

From the Lord Bishop of Elphin, County of Roscommon, dated 22d May, 1822.

In a district of country extending in length about fourteen miles, and in breadth about four or five, and containing the parishes of Aghrim, Eastersnow, Creeve, Elphin, Ogulla, and parts of Kilcola and Kilcorky, there is a population of at least 8000 persons destitute of all means of subsistence, of whom scarcely 1000 could contrive to purchase provisions at very reduced prices.

From the Rev. James Dunn, Drumsna, in the County of Leitrim, dated 23d May, 1822.

The chief subsistence of the poor is water-cresses, rape, and the bran sold at Mr. Walsh's mill; the latter they can hardly afford to purchase, though sold considerably under value.

From the Parishioners of Islandeady, certified by the Rev. W. R. Smith, of Castlebar, County of Mayo, dated 24th May, 1822.

This parish is placed between Westport and Castlebar, the most wretched and barren district in Mayo, the population by far exceeding fifteen hundred families, two parts of whom are at this moment starving, living on young cabbage and the noxious weeds of the field. We lament to say that three persons have already fallen a sacrifice to absolute want.

From the Rev. James Neligan, Kilmactige, County of Mayo, dated 24th of May, 1822.

I beg leave to make this early application to you in behalf of my parishioners, who are labouring under the miseries of want of food, or of the means of procuring it, if ever so cheap, as there is no demand for labourers, nor any other means of earning a subsistence. This parish, which contains above seven thousand souls, consists almost entirely of the poorest class of tenantry, who hold their lands as joint tenants in common, at a very high rate, much indeed above the value. At the best of times, they were unable to pay their rents, and support their families with any degree of comfort; but, at the present time, their distress is very great indeed. Their crops in the last harvest proved very deficient, both in quantity and quality, particularly the *potatoes*, which did not produce above one half of the usual return. It is well known that their support through the year depends almost exclusively on potatoes (their corn being applied to the payment of their rents), and these have been almost exhausted the last month, so that many of the poor people have not had seed to plant, which will be attended with a fresh calamity next year. Fodder has been so scarce, that many of the cattle have died for want of food, and more are so wretchedly poor, that they will not bring any price, and even such as they are, the owners are killing them to supply the place of other food. Groups of starving beggars, consisting often of seven in a family, are crowding the roads and houses, and those who at other seasons are able to assist them are now rendered entirely incapable. Some hundred families have already abandoned their dwellings, and gone out to beg through the country at large, at least the women and children have done so, whilst the men have gone to England or elsewhere, to try to obtain work.

From Henry Waldron, Esq. Balla Lodge, Castlebar, County of Mayo, dated 25th May, 1822.

You would feel for the numerous groups that you meet at the doors of every person where they expect relief;—others lying by the sides of the roads unable to proceed to beg a scanty supply, with meagre looks and badly clothed.

From J. E. Strickland, Esq. of Loughglyn, in the County of Roscommon, dated 25th May, 1822.

The hand of charity, always open to the beggar in this country, was unable to supply the deluge of poor objects that surrounded every door, and multitudes have continued to wander about in a state of starvation, which has already, I believe, caused the death of numbers, and the number of victims must inevitably increase, from day to day. In this state of things the sale of provisions at a reduced price, will do good to the small number who possess funds and spirit of independence, but to the mass of starving people it can do none; to them, daily food and potatoes to plant, are the only relief that can be administered. c

From the Rev. Robert Morrill, Castlehaven, County of Cork, dated 26th May, 1822.

But we have a population, exceeding six thousand,—and upwards of twelve hundred are in the greatest distress; so much so indeed, that I found one of them fainting from hunger by the road side, and another who was attempting to dig fall from exhaustion. n

From the Rev. Michael Fitzgerald, P. P. Dromcolloher, County of Limerick, dated 28th May, 1822.

There is in this village, at this moment, a population of seven hundred souls; and of these, a full half are literally starving. I have ascertained by actual personal inspection, that there are more than seventy families, who have been seldom able to procure more than one meal a day for some time past. This meal consists universally of oaten gruel, or stirabout as it is called, and it is not always that this daily miserable meal can be procured. I have known instances where whole families have been more than *thirty-six hours* without taking food, and one instance has come to my knowledge, where a family of nine persons were *three days without tasting food*. I could name the family, and it is a name, I believe, with which you are not unacquainted.

*From John Cahill, Esq. Woodpark, County of Galway,
dated May 30th, 1822.*

It would shock you, Sir, to see those men who two months ago were robust and active, now with sunken eyes, pallid, faint or hectic, proclaiming "Hunger," which many of them have hitherto been ashamed to acknowledge. The wife of one of the petitioners applied here two days ago, for bran to bathe the feet of her brother in law, confined to his bed, and I was this day informed, that the bran was really intended for food, and eaten to support six persons for two days. Others equally ashamed of their poverty, postpone cooking till midnight, when a mess of indifferent wheat is boiled for the family. This they are now buying on credit and security at twenty shillings per hundred weight, whereas money at market could buy it under eight shillings per hundred weight.

*From Michael Sullivan, Esq. Bantry, County of Cork,
May 30th, 1822.*

Scenes of the most agonizing distress are every day taking place which we have not the means to remedy. The unfortunate pride of the people too, adds not a little to the calamity. One woman with three children died of actual starvation;—they were nearly a week without sustenance, and she was ashamed to make her case known;—before assistance could be administered, they were all found lifeless together.

Many are seen to faint through mere exhaustion, during the necessary delay that occurs in administering food; and it is the opinion of many of the Committee, that were it not for the benevolent aid of the British public, the local subscription would be hardly sufficient to purchase coffins for those who would die of mere want.

*From G. Clendining, Esq. Westport, County of Mayo,
31st May, 1822.*

It is quite impossible to convey an adequate idea of all the horrors the islanders of Boffin and Innisturk are suffering. Several of them have died of starvation! One family

made an escape and rushed to our soup shop, crying for food. Mr. Grace was there at the moment, and told me of this fact: many are lingering, supported on the eggs of the wild fowl. Famine was not understood in this country until this period. I can assure you, I am obliged to examine the countenances of persons I knew as well as I know you, before I am certain I do not mistake. The mass of wretchedness drawn out from hovels all around us, is beyond belief, except to an eye witness.

*From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo,
1st June, 1822.*

Though the following representations are gloomy, we believe multitudes of objects remain yet undiscovered, and we fear that in another month, notwithstanding our utmost efforts, the aspect will be even worse than it is now. Before their distress was published, all the little furniture of their cabins had been sold, even to their only pot for boiling their provisions, and some within the last day or two, have been discovered stealing for food, the sea weed which had been carried out to the fields as manure for potatoes.

It is impossible to describe the admiration and gratitude which prevails throughout all classes of society here towards their English benefactors. Indeed our only hope of any thing like effectual relief, is in the liberality of British benevolence.

The degree of wretchedness existing among the lower classes, almost exceeds belief. In every direction whole plots of ground remain unoccupied for want of potatoes, wherewith to plant them. Several families have subsisted for days upon boiled water-cresses, without tasting oatmeal or a potatoe. In a part only of one district, 360 resident families, containing 1592 individuals, have been discovered, whose circumstances demand assistance. Some persons, it is believed, have died from absolute want. Already the number of patients in our Fever Hospital is nearly doubled; and disease, the invariable attendant of extreme poverty, is daily spreading. In the suburbs of the town alone, between 3000 and 4000 objects crave relief, who are alike destitute of the necessaries of life and the means of procuring them.

From the Rev. John Gorges, Hollymount, County of Mayo, 2d June, 1822.

This parish labours under a most remarkable disadvantage, which I grieve to say, shuts it out from the very extensive liberality and aid that other places, not more distressed, most eminently experience. I mean the reputation of an opulent resident gentry. I will freely confess, that there is to be found here a resident gentry, possessing large estates, but you, Gentlemen, can form an adequate estimate of the value of such possessions at this deplorable period, when you are informed, that the persons by whom these estates are tenanted, have imposed on them by this awful visitation of Providence—an utter impossibility of paying rents of any kind.

From Thomas Conry, Esq. of Strokestown, in the County of Roscommon, 2d June, 1822.

It is impossible for me to tell you the miserable and wretched condition of the poor here. They are at this moment actually enduring all the horrors of starvation, and malignant disease: hundreds of wretches greedily seeking for water-cresses, wild mustard, nettle tops, and dandelion, which mixed with a small quantity of oatmeal, is their principal food.

From J. Seal Hammond, Esq. dated Killarney, County of Kerry, 3d June, 1822.

I will venture to say, that no case, however melancholy, that has come to the knowledge of the London Committee, can, in any particular, surpass the actual misery and wretchedness of the residents of Ibrickane, county of Clare, and the adjoining Barony. A total failure of the last year's crop deprived them of the sole means of subsistence. To pro-

long a miserable existence, they have been compelled for some months past to support themselves on rock weed, lim-pit, and the tops of nettles. Hundreds have daily witnessed flocking to the sea side to collect a scanty meal. It is scarcely possible to convey to you an idea of their actual sufferings and privations: humanity shudders on viewing their pale and sickly forms, worn away by disease and famine. In some of the wretched hovels, may be seen the father and mother of a family lying down in the last stage of a fever, surrounded by their starved and half naked children, with no support beyond the casual pittance bestowed by the charity of an unfortunate neighbour, whose condition, with the exception of sickness, is no way superior. It is no uncommon occurrence to see the unfortunate individuals faint with hunger while waiting to obtain tickets, and many devour their small pittance before they reach their homes.

*From M. Furnell, Esq. of Liccadoon House, Limerick,
June 4, 1822.*

In my immediate neighbourhood there are several hundred families in a state of actual starvation, and without any possible means of procuring their daily food, or potatoes to sow their ground, which is prepared. I can state, from personal observation, that wild rape and cresses are their sole support. The parishes I allude to are Rakeen and Donoughmore; being in the Liberties, they are excluded from the county fund, and the City Committee will not extend their aid so far. There are in this district many widows, orphans, and persons, unable to work, but very many could support their families if they had employment.

From the Rev. H. Fitzgerald, Vicar, and the Rev. James Moran, P. P. Castletown Delvin, County of Westmeath, 6th June, 1822.

I send you the list of the unemployed poor of Castletown Delvin, and Clonarny. Many have no provision left, none expect to have any in a few weeks; they are all most anxious to work, but many, I assure you will, if not soon relieved, be unable to bear the fatigue, for they are the very picture of hunger; and in many places they are found boiling the water-cresses and weeds as their only food. They all have the greatest reliance on you, and are confident you will do all in your power to procure some relief. Employment, at almost any wages, is all they ask for. What is to become of them I know not.

Resolution adopted at a Local Committee of the Parish of Kilkummin, County of Tipperary, 6th June, 1822.

Resolved—That we, the resident gentry, have supported our respective tenants for several weeks before any relief arrived to us, and that now we are unable to give them the least assistance, not receiving a shilling of rent.

From the Rev. John Garritt, Vicar of Emlafad, County of Sligo, 6th June, 1822.

The starving tenantry of a number of absentee landlords, lie about the doors of the poor clergyman, and of some neighbours in the middle ranks of life, unable to move, without some sustenance, away from their dwellings. Our provisions are exhausted, and we have the misery to endure every hour of driving from our view, our wretched starving fellow creatures. This morning, a decent Protestant landholder, privately appealed to me for relief, and such was his exhaustion, that upon tasting a little food he swooned away,

and for some seconds we thought he was dead. Upon sending a little food into some families, too decent to beg, they have been found convulsed with hunger; the children in many cases unable to sit up.

*From Col. Percival, Temple House, County of Sligo,
6th June, 1822.*

No later than yesterday, I heard of one unfortunate family that had not had any provisions for the last fortnight or three weeks, and principally subsisted on herbs. The family consisted of the father, mother, seven young daughters, (and the mother daily expecting to be confined again), and a niece. They were respectable Protestants, and had been ashamed to make their distress known. I gave them a barrel (80 stone) of potatoes, and a hundred weight of oaten meal. The father, who came to take home the provisions, was ordered his dinner in my house, and upon getting food he fainted three times. He said some of his children were in convulsions for want of food, and the whole family upon being relieved of hunger, were seized with illness, and are now keeping their bed (if a bed it can be called.) Many, many instances of similar distress exist.

*From James Cuff, Esq. Creagh, Ballinrobe, County
of Mayo, 7th June, 1822.*

I am not able, I have not language, to describe the deplorable state to which this wretched people are reduced, many of them subsisting solely on a weed gathered on the sea shore, and carried many miles on their backs; perhaps so far as 20 or 25 miles. This but rarely supports existence, but for that, what will not man do, what labour will not a parent undergo to still the piercing cries of his famishing children, looking to him, and calling on him, to preserve that existence he was the cause of giving.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
June 8th, 1822.*

I have just returned from a visit to Castlebar, Wexport, Newport, and much of the county of Mayo, and have made myself well acquainted, I think, with the real and true state of that unhappy county. Little could I have conceived the frightful scene of misery and wretchedness which I had to witness. Before I left this, I conceived it would be difficult to go one step beyond much of my immediate neighbourhood, and many parts of this county of Galway; but indeed Mayo far surpasses the most of the county of Galway, except that vast district to the west of the town of Galway. In my progress from place to place, I travelled through hundreds and thousands of weak, emaciated, unfed human creatures, just kept alive, and no more; many, very many, not having one ounce of wholesome food per day. I saw people at Newport, who had come fifteen miles to receive four quarts of oatmeal, for one week, for the supply of a family. •

Here much fever, dysentery, and cholera morbus prevail. I have, every where I went, and I presided at all their Committees, advised their more extended relief, and to endeavour to keep as many alive as they can for one fortnight or three weeks, when I was assured large further supplies would be sent, from the strong representations I had made to the government. I wrote on Tuesday last to Mr. Goulburn, such a statement, as could be only equalled by the scenes I have since seen. In short, Sir, if Thousands are not immediately sent into these counties, particularly to Mayo and the west of Galway, without the fear of contradiction I say—that large proportions must die! It is now become so bad, that it would be folly to talk of immediate employment; the people in general are too weak to work, and must be fed and strengthened *gradually*, before employment could be available. If our Government has not sufficient funds in their hands to relieve this most extraordinary demand, I hope they will again apply to Parliament for liberal supply. There is no time to discuss the matter; our case cannot be met by ordinary rules or reasonings. If we are not supplied we must die—if we are promptly supplied, many may yet be saved. I shall live among these famishing people till the summer is over, when I pray that the Lord may bless us with a plentiful harvest, for although I can do them no good, I think it cheers them to see one anxiously enquiring about them, and it encourages the gentlemen (who indeed are in most parts doing their duty well) to go on in their work of mercy. •

From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, 8th June, 1822.

Though there is a Committee formed in this town (of which I am a member) for the aid of the numerous and miserable objects that present themselves almost hourly, yet it is my intention to dispose of the money which you have mentioned in the mountainous districts, where co-operation cannot be obtained, and where, to my knowledge, hundreds of families are reduced to the dire necessity of making use of water cresses, nettles, &c. to support, or rather to drag on a miserable existence.

From the Rev. George Spaight, and George Edward Dalton, Esq. Cavan, 8th June, 1822.

That unless timely relief be afforded, very many of the inhabitants must perish for want of food ; and that already several among them, have been compelled to live on wild herbs, and the blood of animals slaughtered in the market. We beg leave further to state, that the proportion of these parishes, as ascertained by the last census, amounts to 9089, of which number about one fourth part is reduced to a state of indescribable misery, being for the present without either food or seed potatoes to plant the ground, which still lies waste.

From Robert De La Cour, Esq. Beare Forest, Mal-low, County of Cork, 8th June, 1822.

It is a melancholy fact, that the numbers reported from the several parishes of the county, to be in a state, not merely of distress, but of actual destitution, cannot be estimated at less than an *Hundred Thousand*. It would be of importance to ascertain what may be the excess of calamity to which our County is exposed this year, but we cannot devise any means of obtaining such information, nor can we see our way, with all the splendid generosity bestowed upon us, to afford any thing like substantial relief.

*From the Right Rev. Dr. John Murphy, R. C.
Bishop of Cork, 10th June, 1822.*

The Parish Priest writes, that the unemployed destitute Inhabitants are driven to the dire necessity of bleeding the cows, and of using as food the blood mixed with milk, when it can be had.

From the Rev. Charles Seymour, Clifden, County of Galway, 10th June, 1822—addressed to the Archbishop of Tuam.

- I had the honour and pleasure of receiving your Grace's letter, inclosing a letter from the Liverpool Committee, with a donation of £50 for the relief of our starving neighbours. One poor creature who was employed by me last week, to amuse, but not to fatigue himself, at the repairing of roads, was at work on Saturday evening, fasted I am afraid yesterday (Sunday), got up this morning (Monday) to work, not from bed (for bed he had none), but from *the ground, on which he slept without bed clothes*, in his daily rags; he said he felt languid and sleepy—he was in fact getting comatose; he lay down again on the ground, and died. Four died in Boffin, and, if swelled limbs, pale looks, sunken cheeks, and hollow eyes are the harbingers of death, the work of death will be soon very rapid in this country. I often saw scarcity and dearness of provisions, but I never had an idea of famine until now. Next year will be, in all probability, as bad as this; the poor people of this Barony, at least, will find it so; they are so weak that they cannot work for themselves, because they have no food:—they are not able to recover or remould their potatoes, and they do not think of cutting turf. I dismissed this evening 300 men, whom I had employed in the repairs of roads; I never witnessed such distress as my communication of not being able to give them another day's work occasioned:—they said, that a day or two more without employment, that is, without food, would put an end to all their labours.

*From Encas Macdonnell, Esq. dated Dublin, June 12,
1822.*

I am honoured by receipt of the Queries of your Committee which came to hand yesterday afternoon; I return them to you answered briefly, but must pray your attention to immediate practical operations of relief.

I have considered the state of the County of Mayo very diligently for the last two months; I have had the advantage of perusing about 100 letters from that county, addressed to the Dublin Committee, of which I am a member; and I am also in constant confidential correspondence with several gentlemen resident in different parts of the county. I feel myself perfectly justified in declaring, that there is not a single parish in the entire county that is not most grievously afflicted by the present lamentable visitation of famine and disease. I have seen particular accounts of some of our fellow creatures who have actually died of starvation, typhus fever, or cholera morbus. The dysentery is also very prevalent, but I do not find that it is so fatal.

Your Committee justly look forward to the months of July and August as constituting the period likely to require most extensive relief; you would be well warranted in fixing its commencement a week or two earlier. It is plain, at any rate, there is no time to spare in correspondence between such distant points of relief and distress, and we must prepare to encounter the crisis without loss of a moment.

In doing this we should in my mind commence with a perfect knowledge, if possible, and prompt allocation of our resources. This is the only mode in which any enemy should be met with a rational hope of success; and in our case the character, tendency, and strength of the opponent is unhappily too well ascertained. This early preparation is the only way to prevent the inconsiderate distribution and perhaps abuse of funds at the hour of trial; when anxiety and agitation must necessarily produce disorder and confusion.

*From St. Clair O'Malley, Esq. Hawthorn Lodge,
Castlebar, County of Mayo, dated 13th June, 1822.*

I beg leave also to call your attention to the cries of the numerous starving inhabitants of the Island of Innisturk, the third largest in Clew Bay. The only support of these

unfortunate people at present, is boiled sea weed, and the fish they occasionally take. The distance from the main land makes it quite impossible for any local Committee to afford them weekly relief, and the surf runs so particularly high on the shore of the island, that many might perish in the attempt.

From the Right Rev. Dr. Plunkett, R. C. Bishop of Elphin, County of Roscommon, dated 15th June, 1822.

It is with an afflicted heart that I am obliged to inform you, that the distress of our peasantry continues to encrease, that thousands who did not complain in the beginning, and who were ashamed to have themselves put on the list of paupers, are now compelled when their little means and resources have been completely drained and exhausted, to apply to the Local Committees of their respective districts for the scanty allowance of three quarts of meal per week; this is the usual allowance and cannot be exceeded, as otherwise the funds would soon be drained, for I am free to state, on the best authority, and from my own personal knowledge (having very lately visited the counties of Sligo and Roscommon), that nearly one-third of the population of my widely extended diocese, have neither food nor the means to procure it.

From the Rev. Francis Percy, of Ballinamore, County of Leitrim, dated June 16th, 1822.

I can easily anticipate what you will feel on being informed, that an unfortunate woman, the wife of a Stephen Gurkian in Aughlin, fell a victim this morning to the melancholy state of suffering to which want has subjected her these few weeks past. Her husband was unable to call for meal last Thursday; nor will he or any of his children, who are shafters in his distress, be able, as is customary, to accompany her remains to the grave.

From the Rev. Malachy Duggan, Donata, near Kilrush, County of Clare, dated 17th June, 1822.

The magnitude of the population under my care, amounting, according to the late census, to nine thousand five

hundred, was an additional cause of distress. These are at present like so many skeletons stripped of every thing almost, as if the exterminating hand of the destroying angel had devastated the land. The last season demolished not only the corn, potatoes, &c. but the straw and fodder: this caused a mortality of the cattle, and reduced those who had but few and lost them, to the necessity of pledging and selling their day and night clothes to purchase food. Want created disease in many families.

From the Rev. Robert Kirkhoffer, Clondrohid, County of Cork, dated June 17, 1822.

A man came for employment this day, having a family of nine children; he had parted with every article of furniture he possessed, and the last which he sold was the pot in which he used to boil the potatoes.

A woman, a few days since, was brought to bed of twins; she had no covering or shelter but the projection of a large rock, and had been obliged to cut a breadth out of the only petticoat she had, to make clothes for the infants.

From the Right Rev. Dr. Waldron, R. C. Bishop of Killalla, County of Mayo, dated 17th June, 1822.

Cabbage, borrag, nettles, nay, in many instances, the rotting potatoe, taken from under the growing stalk, constitute the sickening meal. The situation of these parishes, however, is enviable compared with others, particularly those in the Half Barony of Erris. This Half Barony is a peninsula, and separated from the inland country by a great chain of mountains, 30 miles across. It was always a very plentiful country, and in seasons of scarcity an asylum for all the poor of the interior, where they were most hospitably and generously provided for, till plenty again visited the land, and encouraged them to return to their homes; but at present their circumstances are changed indeed!

*From Dr. Church, Listowel, County of Kerry,
21st June, 1822.*

Some melancholy deaths have occurred near us. A family of three died at Duagh of want, under peculiarly melancholy circumstances, and an account of the deaths of two more arrived this morning.

*From the Rev. Edmund French, R. C. Warden of
Galway, 22d June, 1822.*

Disease and famine are particularly prevalent on the sea coast of Galway, a distance of fifteen miles. Indeed this is the case on all the Connemara coast. James Toole, Mary M'Donough, and Patrick King, have died on their beds of actual hunger!

*From the Rev. Charles Seymour, Clifden, Connemara,
County of Galway, 24th June, 1822.*

In some parishes of this extensive Barony, several poor creatures have perished through want of food, whose deplorable state was unknown until it was too late to avert the fatal effects of long and *patiently borne inanition*. Œdematous swellings and typhus fever, in many instances preceded death, but there were also cases in which the transition from time into eternity, was unattended by these symptoms.

On account of the extent of this Barony, being 30 English miles long by 20 broad, and on account of its great population, consisting of about 20,000 souls, we divided the whole of Connemara into six districts, each district containing about 3300 persons, all of whom, with very few exceptions, were, and are, without any food, or means of purchasing it, although *far from being scarce or dear*, except in a few counties.

In the parish of Orney, in which I live, and in which there are upwards of 3400 souls, I thank God, the paucity of deaths, by starvation, has hitherto been very singular, one only having died of weakness brought on by want of food, before his real state was known, while in other half parishes, in the short space of *three days, 22 have died*.

*From the Rev. James Martin, Kilmurry Glebe, Knock,
County of Clare, 26th June, 1822.*

I have known the unfortunate creatures actually to sell the very pots in which they used to boil their potatoes (when

they had them), and the feathers out of their only bed, to procure means for a few days subsistence. I have seen many who came a distance of at least seven Irish miles to a meal depôt, waiting from morning till night, for their turn to be served, and when served, devouring the scanty portion intended for a whole family, raw and dry as they received it.

From the Rev. M. J. Shawe, Killuken Glebe, County of Roscommon, 27th June, 1822.

Hunger shews itself in their countenances. I myself have seen them sitting at their unwholesome fare of nauseous weeds, and I have been credibly informed, that there have been some instances of creatures so reduced by absolute want, as to be obliged to crawl on their hands and feet to a neighbouring house to procure some nourishment.

From Owen Wynne, Esq. M.P. and the Committee for the Town of Sligo, 1st July, 1822.

Notwithstanding our exertions, want and wretchedness continue to encrease around us. Members of the Committee as they pass along the streets, are followed by crowds of hungry creatures, whose appearance attests the urgency of their distress, but to whom we are unable to give assistance. To day a young woman fainted through hunger. The District Visitors feared deception, and as is always done, they entered into a strict investigation of the circumstances. It appeared that she was the eldest of ten children, all dependent on the exertions of their once comfortable, but now destitute parents. The mother had obtained a ticket for purchasing provisions at reduced prices, in order to do which, having disposed of every article of furniture, and parted with the shoes from off her feet, she had taken the *ring from her finger*, which she had worn for twenty-two years, as the sign of marriage union and fidelity, and sold it for tenpence! We regret to state, that the number of patients in our Fever Hospital is doubled, while dysentery and cholera morbus are prevailing to an alarming extent among the poor, which the Dispensary and Fever Hospital physicians attribute to the destitute condition of our population.

From the Rev. Matthew Corbett, Chairman of the Baronial Committee of Moyarta, County of Clare, 11th July, 1822.

We submit that the distress of this Barony far exceeds that of any other in this county, in as much as its proximity to the western ocean, exposes it more than any other, to the inclemency of the weather. That the only crops which suffered little, namely wheat, its poor soil produces little or none of, and that the fisheries and exportation of turf, on which an immense population depended chiefly for support, also failed. The weather having prevented the fishermen from prosecuting the fishery, and the farmer from getting the turf out of his bog. So unfortunately circumstanced, they were, during the winter season, obliged to kill their pigs and cattle, as well for their own subsistence, as for want of food to preserve them, and were thereby left destitute of any resource whatever, but such as they derive from the charitable societies. And unless some humane effort is made in our behalf to afford us some additional support, the greater proportion of the population of this Barony must inevitably perish.

From Mr. William Fennell, of Rehill, near Clogheen, in the County of Tipperary, 11th July, 1822.

I am grieved to relate, that whilst I went to a mill last evening, to see how I could procure a supply of meal, I was informed on my return, that a large number of the wretched poor people were at my house seeking relief; that my wife, after giving them what she could spare from her own family, was under the necessity of ordering the cabbage to be cut in the garden and given to them, and, melancholy to state, their hunger was so extreme, as to cause some of them to eat the cabbage raw.

*From Dr. Wm. Heise, and Mr. James Kennedy,
Burrisakane Dispensary, County of Tipperary, 14th
July, 1822.*

The poor creatures are lying without bed or straw under them, some even without shirts on the bare floor in a miserable cabin, or under cover of a wall or hedge, with no other covering than their ragged, dirty, and infected clothes, their food a half-decayed fermented potatoe, their drink cold water. This wretched diet has brought them to this low state, and its continuance carries them to an untimely grave; life is no longer desirable, and death in a short period, puts an end to this tragic scene. The evil is daily encreasing, and it is impossible to say where it may end.

*From Col. H. P. L'Estrange, Moystown, Governor
of King's County, 16th July, 1822.*

I shall mention a single instance of a farmer, who was formerly in respectable circumstances, applying to me yesterday for work at eight-pence per day, and assuring me he was driven by the most urgent distress, as he and his family, consisting of eleven persons, had subsisted for the last three days on cabbage leaves, and two of them in a typhus fever. I know the man would not have made the application, if he could have subsisted without it. I beg leave to add, that I am myself giving employment and subsistence to 350 persons, which I cannot continue much longer, as the stock I had laid in is nearly exhausted, and their whole dependence is upon what I can give them.

*From Captain R. P. Steward, of Freemount, in the
County of Cork, 19th July, 1822.*

In consequence of the extreme distress of the inhabitants of this parish, in which I am quartered, I am induced to make an application to the London Committee, confident they will take this miserable part of the country under their consideration. Since Saturday last, the greatest distress has prevailed in consequence of our not being able to employ the

labourers ; the number of starving individuals in the parish is estimated at two thousand ; they have no one to look to for assistance, no resident gentlemen among them, or for miles distant ; the Priest of the parish lives at a distance, consequently the unfortunate people are left entirely neglected, which has caused me to interest myself for them. The situation of the inhabitants of this part of the country is to be deplored ; it is out of my power to give a just idea of it ; it requires to be seen to be properly known ; their gardens were entirely neglected for want of seed, consequently they are extremely backward, the greater part not being able to plant until the latter part of June. I have received aid occasionally from the Baronial Committee, but the funds are now entirely exhausted ; the distress appears to have increased during the last ten days, and should they not receive immediate assistance, I fear the consequence will be serious ; I am obliged to confine myself to my tent, to avoid the groups of famished wretches who haunt the neighbourhood of my encampment, in hopes of obtaining relief ; and at this moment the place is crowded with applicants for work.

From the Rev. Jeremiah Molony, P. P. of Rosscurbery, County of Cork, 19th July, 1822.

Of the extreme nature of the distress in this quarter, you possibly have heard instances enough. One of my parishioners, a man of the name of Cain, lived a fortnight on boiled sea weed and green cabbage, without any ingredient whatever. A family within two miles of my residence, passed sometimes three days and nights without any sustenance, but water tinged with a little sheep's milk. All converted every little article, even their clothes into money, for food. A man of the name of John Jordan, assured me he would have died of hunger but for one ten-penny he got for a little bag of feathers he used as a pillow, and the only luxury he could boast of. In a word, but for the English many thousands would have perished, and the distress just now is at its height.

From Henry Blake, Esq. of Renvyle, in the County of Galway, to the Mansion House Committee, Dublin. Communicated to the London Committee, by Henry Grattan, Esq, July 31st, 1822.

I had the honour of accompanying Mr. Brearley to three of the most distressed villages. We went by sea, intending to call at Boffin, where Mr. Brearley is gone to-day, but had not time. On landing at Sillerney, the first object that struck us, was a group of half naked and apparently half famished children, with two or three weak, sickly looking men, lying about the rocks, and we were soon surrounded though at a distance, by others, equally naked. In the village of Ropadilch (I write chiefly from my notes), we first went into the house of John Kiinnerley, who was lying by the fire, pale, weak, and helpless; our presence he scarcely noticed, and from him we gained little or no information, but his wife told us, he had been in that state six weeks from starvation.

In the same village, in the house of Biddy Feeney, we heard from the woman that she had lost two children of hunger—(this corroborates Flaherty's return to that extent). The next house was indeed a scene of wretchedness, which pen cannot describe. Mary Mulcheren, the mother of eight children, was on a miserable pallet, covered by a wretched quilt, without bedding, in the last stage of exhaustion; two children on the same bed, looking more like starved monkeys than any thing I can imagine—one of them, when moved to be examined, fell back, as if incapable of exertion; those around were little better; and to my eye, the whole family were marked for death. I asked for the husband, he was gone for the priest—was said to be ruptured and incapable of work: one child had died here of hunger. In another house we found sickness; in all more or less of extreme exhaustion; in all, nakedness and want.

M. Coneys has had the distribution in the next town land of Averbeg, under Mr. Loftus. There were two complaints made as to the last delivery, which were satisfactorily explained, and I have every reason to think Mr. Coneys did his best with what he could get; he however stated, on oath, that to his own personal knowledge, *fifteen or sixteen had died of starvation within a mile of his house*—eight of them in the same village; the people seemed grateful in general for his exertions, and one family that had been in

great want said, had it not been for Mr. Coneys' exertions, they would have died. In his village however, though we had not time to visit every house, we ascertained that Miles King, aged 54, died of hunger, as also Patrick Toole's wife and child; the woman, from want, miscarried—as was stated by several inmates, having often been for four days without food. This family also lost another child.

*From William Barwick, Esq. of Clara, King's County,
August 1, 1822.*

As a magistrate, I have had occasion to go through the parish, and really nothing but the heart-rending scenes of distress I met with would make me at this time (I being aware of the numerous applications which are daily making to your Committee) address you. In three instances I found it to be a fact that these families consisting of thirteen persons, were two days without a morsel of food.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
August 3, 1822.*

At all times a large proportion of our poor peasantry have no beds, little or no covering at night, few miserable articles of furniture, and clothing scarcely sufficient for decency; wretched hovels, some without any gardens, and some with a few perches, for which of course they must be under some rent. I am now speaking from my own personal knowledge. There is not regular employment for one quarter of our labouring poor, and the wages are six-pence, eight-pence, and ten-pence per day, with which they are to pay their rent, subsist and clothe their families, provide fuel, &c. &c. I would ask you, Sir, how this is possible? A step higher, and a pig may be added to their other possessions; again, a cow may be added; a sheep to this, a horse, a second cow, and so on. In the most prosperous times we have a most impoverished and ignorant peasantry. A large proportion of our people could not be made worse by any temporary visitation of providence, except inasmuch as it incapacitates their neighbours from affording that relief which in great part had been their only source of subsistence; but those

whose cases were a little improved by possessing something, are most extensively reduced, from the pressure of the present famine: they have sold their clothes, their blankets, their furniture, their pigs, horses, cows, sheep, in short every article upon the earth, to procure food in the early part of the present distress, and to avoid their seeking relief by public or private alms. Of this there can be no doubt, I know it myself, I have learned it from others in all parts of this district. In relieving much of the want which I have stated, as arising from the state of this particular year, one great difficulty occurs to me—most of these unhappy people are in considerable arrear to their landlords; much danger is to be apprehended that, were you to replace such articles as they may have sold, in order to procure for themselves and families food, they would be seized for the payment of their rent, and thus your funds would not mend their condition, but would go into the landlord's pocket, a class of people who no doubt have a right to a rent for their land, and who are very great sufferers from the present depressed state of the times.

I have endeavoured to state to you as well as I can by letter, an outline of our sad condition; be assured I have not exaggerated, but (if any thing) I have omitted many grievances with which we are afflicted. I am busily engaged from four o'clock in the morning till I go to bed, and am obliged to lay aside many important duties of my station for this paramount one.

*From the Rev. Charles Hanrahan, Limerick,
5th Aug. 1822.*

On behalf of the poor of the parish of St. Mary's, I most respectfully beg leave to return the London Committee my most sincere thanks for this very timely and indeed very much wanted relief.

Your remittance providentially arrived just at the moment when every invention of mine, as to how I could continue relief to the worn out and despairing poor of St. Mary's parish seemed to be completely exhausted. Surrounded by several hundreds of persons, feeling all the agonies of mind and body which naturally arise from despair and actual want of food, without a shilling in my hands for their relief, or a prospect of being able to procure relief for them, I knew not what to do, or where to turn for assistance. It was,

Sir, in this crisis of distress, that your remittance happily arrived: words fail me to express the feelings of gratitude under which I labour at the present moment. May the God of Charity and the lasting acknowledgements of Ireland, be the reward of your unparalleled benevolence.

The Parish of St. Mary is situated in the old town. It was once the residence of all the wealth, but now the depot of nearly all the desperate misery and wretchedness of Limerick.

The Committee had to contend with four or five months continuance of distress. Under these circumstances, the prudence of the Committee forbade them from engaging in any measure of substantial relief. Kitchens were opened, and boilers erected for preparing oatmeal porridge; a certain number of pints of porridge were voted to be daily prepared and dispensed; but the number of pints allowed did not exceed half the number of miserable individuals, who with tears, and the eager importunity of hunger, solicited that relief. A pint of porridge was the greatest relief that any individual could obtain per day; but to a family, however numerous or starving they may be, only six pints per day, were and are still allowed. In the parish of St. Mary, lives a man named Dennis Helier, a labourer, who has a wife, nine unmarried daughters, and three orphan grandchildren: for several weeks he could procure no employment, nor was any of the daughters able to render the least assistance to herself or the rest of the family. Still this large family, fourteen in number, totally destitute of every means to protract existence, could not obtain more than six pints, or about three halfpence worth of porridge per day.

At the period to which I allude, all the labouring classes were entirely unemployed. English benevolence soon flowed in on the City of Limerick Committee. The first object of the Committee, very wisely, was to give employment to as many as possible; weeks had elapsed after the poor of the other parishes of the city were employed, before the poor of St. Mary's parish could procure employment, owing to the reasons stated in the letter published by me, at that time, in the enclosed number of the Limerick Chronicle. The poor of St. Mary's were then literally starving. I should either make the appeal which I then did to the public, or behold hundreds of persons reduced to the dreadful alternative of dying of hunger, or becoming plunderers to preserve existence. I respectfully request you may be pleased to read the letter in the Newspaper, not one word of which has been, or could be contradicted, because the

description fell vastly short of the melancholy reality. Immediately after the publication of that letter, I received from the citizens of Limerick, in money and provisions, to the amount of about £60, for the relief of the objects contemplated in the letter. The attention of the Committee was likewise turned to the employment of some of the labouring poor of St. Mary's parish. But even of the mere labourers of the parish, I venture to state, that over half the number have not been able to procure employment. All along since that period to the present hour, no language of mine could adequately describe the overwhelming misery and destitution of the remaining unemployed labourers, unemployed tradesmen, widows and orphans of the parish. The existence of such wretchedness would appear incredible to any but an eye-witness;—how they exist astonishes me. Such has been, and such still is, the extreme destitution of hundreds in the parish of St. Mary's, that a bucket of potatoes is nearly as useless to them as a bucket of stones, unless they at the same time get a halfpenny or penny to purchase fuel. I have ascertained the fact of a family, to whom I had myself given some potatoes, being obliged to lie down at night without eating a morsel that day, because I had forgotten to hand a penny for turf together with the potatoes. I think I may safely state two thousand as the probable number of wretched creatures, who rise every morning in St. Mary's parish, without any certain means or prospect of procuring a morsel of solid food for the day; whilst the number of those who with great difficulty work out one poor meal in the day, may perhaps be estimated at five or six thousand. The great majority of the population of St. Mary's parish, are either in tattered rags or nearly quite naked; no bed, not even a straw one, no article of use or convenience in their miserable habitations—dire hunger forced them to pawn or sell every thing for which they could procure one penny. I shall not further afflict your already too much afflicted feelings, but conclude, by again thanking you for your benevolent remittance for the poor of St. Mary's parish.

From John Carroll, Esq. Milltown Malbay, County of Clare, dated 6th August, 1822.

The population of the Barony of Ibrickane exceeds, I believe, 17,000 souls; and that so many individuals should be wholly destitute of the means of subsistence, when labouring under sickness, is a circumstance hardly equalled in any part of the known world. A circumstance mentioned to me yesterday by the Catholic Clergyman of this parish, who is the most respectable Catholic Priest I ever was acquainted with, will exemplify in some degree the miserable state of the peasantry here. This very zealous and humane man was called upon to baptize a new born infant a few days ago. He found the wretched mother lying on a miserable pallet, and, by her side was stretched her son, a boy of twelve or thirteen years of age, in a high fever. Of course, as the Rev. Mr. Patrick M'Guane himself said, it was not a matter of surprise, that in a few days he was again called on to administer the last rites of his communion to the unhappy sufferers. He told me, they had no second apartment where the sick might be separated from the healthy part of the family, and that the lying-in woman was almost without covering, as all the bed clothes of the house, consisting of a half worn blanket and some other ragged matters, were consigned to the use of the boy.

From the Local Committee of the Parish of Killinave, County of Tipperary, dated 10th August, 1822.

We have learned with regret that many families amongst us have existed for several days on boiled cabbage and other vegetables, without one ounce of solid food.

From John Mahon, Esq. of Besborough, Moneygall, King's County, dated August 11th, 1822.

The instructions received are as closely followed as possibility admits of, but very many of those that try to labour, drop down in a short time from weakness, and must be nourished until restored.

From William Hume, Esq. Glen Killybegs, County of Donegal, dated 14th August, 1822.

I find the distress of this parish much greater than I at first imagined. On my visits through some cabins last night, I actually witnessed a person of the name of Cannon, preparing for the food of his family a young calf that had died : a most disgusting spectacle. All I could say of the dangerous consequence to their health; could not restrain those wretched creatures from making use of this nearly putrid carcase. Nothing but force would prevent it, and this I dare not attempt. A poor woman of a most sickly and squalid appearance, who, deprived of her breast milk by fever, followed me, entreating that I would order a pint of milk for the nourishment of her child who was pining away from want. And those who came for oatmeal were walking skeletons.

From Francis O'Beirne, Esq. Jamestown, Drumsna, County of Leitrim, dated 4th October, 1822.

On my return to this country after a short absence in the month of May last, I discovered many of the peasantry in the fields collecting the tops of wild turnips, spinage and water-cresses for food, and assembling around the neighbouring mill for bran and pollard of a bad description, and the markets of potatoes and oatmeal around me rapidly on the advance, and all the appearance of approaching famine. Potatoes, that about the same period in the former year were from 5d to 8d per cwt. of eight stone, advanced to four shillings, and soon after to five shillings, and oatmeal from eighteen to twenty shillings per cwt. An association was immediately formed to keep down the price of provisions, which was attended with good effect. Myself and some others established boilers for soup to be given gratis, and some subscriptions were entered into, and it was discovered that a man named Arthur M'Clean, within a mile of this place, and also another of the name of Lanin, died from the effects of hunger; the one was a boatman, the other a labourer (this reported to me by the parish priest, the Rev. Mr. Keon). They were both men of excellent character, and studiously concealed their wants; were this not the case they could not have thus suffered. This parish, Kiltohart, about this time received from Government £100,

which, with the assistance of some subscriptions, enabled relief to be given on a more extended scale, and which had become indispensable. The wild looks and famished appearance of the peasantry sufficiently told their wants. Several other parishes also got some aid from Government. Your Committee, on our wants being made known, soon followed with their liberal aid. Shortly after the Central Committee was formed.

Amongst the various and numerous cases of distress laid before us, one of the Coroners, Mr. James Nowlan, reported to us a man having died of starvation in the parish of Kiltubride, and that the inquest of his jury was according. The Rev. Mr. Carroll, Parish Priest of Ballinaglera, a mountainous district, represented the state of a numerous population living on the tops of wild roots, and that he was convinced that several had already died from want. An industrious family of the name of Latty, in the village of Leitrim, lay down literally to die—for want of food. Such is the miserable state of this country, that at present I could get in this neighbourhood several hundred of good labourers at the hire of five pounds of meal per day, which at the present price is not four-pence.

CAUSES OF DISTRESS.

*From Messrs Beamish and Crawford, dated Cork,
14th May, 1822.*

From our knowledge of the state of the working classes in Cork, we have no doubt that their situation is truly deplorable, principally arising from want of employment. Skibbereen, and from that town to Bantry, and along the coast, appear to suffer most, by the failure in the potatoe crop.

*From the Rev. Horace Townsend, Clonakilty, in the
County of Cork, 15th May, 1822.*

The present depression of agriculture, the main source of prosperity here, would of itself occasion no small distress among an overflowing population, a great proportion of whom live by their daily labour, and must consequently, be great sufferers from any circumstance that diminishes the incomes of their usual employers. Even among our gentry there are not many who can do more than barely support themselves. But the chief cause of the present wretchedness is the general failure of that crop on which all the lower orders of Irish depend in so great a degree, that whatever be the cost of other articles of subsistence, abundance of potatoes always secures a sufficiency for the poor, while for their scarcity no other crops compensate, because their price is above the pauper's reach.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Killohart, County of Leitrim, 16th May, 1822.

Resolved,—That from the failure of the potatoe crop in the last harvest throughout this parish, an alarming scarcity of the usual sustenance for the labouring poor has taken place, so much so, as to fill us with every apprehension, that without immediate relief, a general famine may take place amongst us.

From the Right Hon. Maurice Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry, 17th May, 1822.

The deficiency in the potatoe crop of last year, blending quality and quantity, may be assumed to be one half. The universal food of the peasantry of this county is the potatoe in ordinary years. The oat crop was also deficient and bad. From the unusual and protracted wetness of the season, a great deficiency of hay likewise occurred. Although this is generally speaking a butter country, the farmers most improvidently depend exclusively on hay for winter food; accordingly in the present spring great numbers of cattle have been lost, even by the most considerable graziers, and in general they have been compelled to apply sheaf oats to the support of their in-calf cows.

The consequence has been a considerable deduction from the local supply of oats, for which 16d. per stone has been in some instances demanded, and that resource cut off from the food of the poor.

The peasant is accustomed to produce from his potatoe garden the entire food for his family. If that fail, nothing can enable him to draw it from the market except full demand for labour, and payment in ready money.

The late depression of prices has nearly extinguished the middle class of farmers. The demand for labour has been diminished in proportion. The second rate class of landowners has suffered so much in their incomes, that their employment of labour has been every where abridged, in most cases abandoned.

The principal proprietors are habitually absent. The accumulation of these causes has thrown on the public charity a mass of famishing beggary which is quite frightful.

The local efforts for relief have been, in consequence, as considerable as the means of the resident contributors will allow. There is also considerable judgment evinced in the administration of such small funds. In many cases absent landlords have contributed liberally, but all efforts of this limited description would leave numbers to starve.

From Major D'Arcy, of Dalystown, Loughrea, in the County of Galway, 21st May, 1822.

The great misfortune of this country is, that with an overgrown population there is little or no employment for the labouring classes, and that in many districts there are no resident gentry to form societies, or enter into subscriptions to relieve the distressed, and no one of course to make application for the sufferers; and where there are some few residents of the better classes, they are unable to give assistance from the difficulty of finding sale for their stock, and the impossibility of getting rent from their poor tenantry; and, in some instances, there is such a variety of persons having interest between the head landlord and the actual cultivator of the soil, that little or nothing can be expected in those cases on application for aid on the present occasion.

From the Local Committee of Burriscarra, County of Mayo, dated 23d May, 1822.

The general failure of the potatoe crop, against the want of which no provision was left to the poor, in consequence of many landed proprietors having obliged their tenantry to dispose of what means they at first possessed, for the payment of rent, at the early markets, and low disadvantageous prices; together with the summary exaction of an enormous local taxation, tithes, and church cesses, have been the past cause of present distress. The existing cause is the low price of cattle, as, if alive after the scarcity of winter, the cow, the calf, and yearling sheep, (the only present disposable produce of the peasant) would hardly bring as much at a fair as could subsist his family for the last month, and that which is passing. Nor are even any of these resources

• in the hands of more than a few: during the weekly markets of winter and spring, they were suffered to go at any price, in order to relieve the immediate urgency of the proprietor.

*At a Meeting of the Gentlemen of the Barony of Kenry,
County of Limerick, 23d May, 1822,*

Resolved,—That it appears to this meeting that our immediate distress in a great measure arises from the poverty and want of employment of the labouring classes, there being a sufficiency of corn to be procured, but a total want of the means of doing so.

*Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Drum-
lease, County of Leitrim, 23d May, 1822.*

That we are fully persuaded the present accumulated distress of the poor, arises from that want of employment and protection naturally attendant on the residence of the landed proprietors, all of whom are absentees, and their representatives, the farmers, rendered totally incapable of affording even the usual wages for labour, or of meeting their own rent engagements, from the very depressed state of agriculture.

*From J. E. Strickland, Esq. of Loughglyn, in the
County of Roscommon, 25th May, 1822.*

In this country no manufacture or any demand for labour exists, by which the poorer classes can obtain money to purchase provisions in the market. All derive their subsistence from the produce of small holdings of land, on which they exist in cabins, the wretchedness of which is to be conceived only by those who have witnessed it.

The land produces potatoes, oats, and a small quantity of flax. The latter, where they are fortunate enough to have it, affords employment to the female part of the family during the winter months; that, together with the oats, and often a part of the potatoes, barely suffice to pay the rent,

and potatoes alone remain to support the family. In the present season, the crop of potatoes on the west coast has been very deficient, added to which a large portion of those which were stored in pits, have rotted from the damp state and want of maturity in which they were laid up.

From the Rev. Michael Fitz-Gerald, P. P. Drumcolloher, County of Limerick, 28th May, 1822.

You must have observed how seldom it happens in this country, that the labour of the poor man is requited with ready money. He gives labour for his garden, rent, and tythe. He gives labour in exchange for horses to draw out his manure, or draw home his turf. He labours for the taylor, the weaver, the smith, and even for the priest and justice, in payment of the benefits derived from their various callings. In a word, he works for every thing but ready money. In general the poor people here have no money dealings, but in buying and selling their pigs, and paying their bog money. This system answers very well as long as the poor man has potatoes enough raised by his own labour; but where, as in the present instance, this resource totally fails him, his embarrassment and difficulty in procuring food is greater than can be conceived. He may be surrounded by plenty, but in this plenty he cannot share without paying the price, and this price, however small, he finds it, under his circumstances, impossible to procure. In ordinary years his employer might relieve him by a loan, but at present the farmers are themselves impoverished beyond measure, and the little money they can scrape together goes to buy corn and meal for the support of their own families. I have known the horses of farmers working for weeks without shoes, for want of the ready money, without which, in the present season, the starved mechanic cannot afford to work.

From Henry Wallis, Esq. of Drishane Castle, County of Cork, 28th May, 1822.

The failure of last year's potatoe crop, as well as the suspension of all works but those of absolute and unavoidable necessity, are the causes of the present extreme misery. We have in this remote district no manufacture, and our

- labourers have been thrown out of employment in consequence of the low prices of every article of agricultural produce, and the consequent poverty of our farmers and gentry.

The few resident gentlemen in these parishes, have already done so much, by encreasing the number of persons in their employment, and by giving provisions to the famishing peasantry that surround them, that little more can be expected from them.

From the Rev. Thomas Tuckey, Rector of Dromaleague, County of Cork, 29th May, 1822.

- Work, there is gone. If money were to be earned, there might still be a gleam of hope ; but those farmers who have heretofore employed labourers, find their means so reduced, that they have been compelled to discharge them. The most humane among them leave them perhaps in possession of their miserable cabins, but any other assistance than a roof to shelter them, they are unable to afford. In aggravation of this calamitous state of things, I have to add, the total want of resident gentry in the parish, who might, by local contributions, do something towards alleviating the general misery.
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From Stephen Gallwey, Esq. of Killarney, in the County of Kerry, 31st May, 1822.

To the unusual wetness of last season, which occasioned a very general failure of the potatoe crop ; to the total suspension of the payments of rents, arising from depression in the value of all Country produce (which deprives the gentry of the power of giving employment), as well as the total stagnation in trade, may be traced the state of extreme poverty and distress to which our unhappy peasantry have been reduced.

Memorial of the Vicar and principal Parishioners of the Parish of Killynumery, County of Leitrim, 1st June, 1822.

That your memorialists feel themselves imperatively called upon at this crisis, to apply for a share of that bounty which has been so liberally afforded, as they are surrounded by a

population of seven thousand souls, who from the failure of the potatoe crop last year, absentee landlords (principally residing in England), and rack rents, are now in a state of absolute starvation, and utterly unable to plant their lands, which are waste for want of seed.

Your memorialists beg leave further to state, that unless the most prompt assistance be afforded, there is no knowing to what lengths famine and disease may drive the wretched inhabitants of this ill-fated parish, the greater part of which are at this moment without one day's subsistence.

From Mrs. Jane Sandford, Castlereagh, County of Roscommon, 3d June, 1822.

I beg leave to represent to you the deplorable situation of the poor in this neighbourhood;—in a district consisting of above twenty villages, the last year's crops totally failed, and even the flax, our staple commodity, the source of our wealth, and the occupation of our poor, perished with the wet.

From Nassau Forster, Esq. (Magistrate of Donegal), the Rev. James Ramsay, Curate, and other Inhabitants of the Parish of Templecrone, County of Donegal, June 5th, 1822.

The first and principal cause of the distress is the almost total failure of the potatoe crop last year, so that the produce did not exceed *seven months* consumption, and in many cases not so much.

2d. The non-importation of provisions, unless on such terms as to be utterly beyond the means of the purchasing poor.

3d. The low price for kelp and stockings, the only manufactures of the parish; the former article has so far fallen in value, that the best and most experienced labourers are not able to earn more than from four to five pence per day. As to the knitting of stockings, it has been most accurately ascertained, that a female with her utmost exertions is unable to earn more than from one penny to three-halfpence per day.

4th. The depreciated value of cattle, for which there is no

demand. As an instance of the correctness of this statement, a two years old heifer, in good condition, has been offered for half a hundred weight of oatmeal, value nine shillings.

5th. The total absence of money and want of employment; these we consider the principal causes of the present distress.

The Memorial of the Curate, Churchwardens, and principal Inhabitants of the Union of Manorhamilton, County of Leitrim, 6th June, 1822.

That your memorialists feel themselves imperatively called upon to apply to your Committee for a share of that bounty which has been so charitably bestowed, to be extended to an Union of sixteen miles in length and nine in breadth, and inhabited by upwards of Eighteen thousand persons, a great proportion of whom, from the failure of the potatoe crop, and from want of employment (not a single landed proprietor residing in this extensive district), are unable either to crop a considerable portion of their lands, now ready for the seed, or even to procure one day's support towards their wretched existence.

From James Cuff, Esq. Creagh, Ballinrobe, County of Mayo, June 7th, 1822.

The parish of Ross in Galway contains Seven thousand three hundred inhabitants; they have hitherto been accustomed to purchase the provision they required, over what their land produced, by the sale of the cattle reared on the mountains, but now there is no demand for them they cannot sell them at any price. Potatoes constitute their almost only food, and with their last harvest that crop suffered much more than in the low lands,—it almost entirely failed. There are no resident Gentlemen in that parish: I am the only landed proprietor who ever at all visits it, and being attached to the country, I sometimes spend a few days at a Lodge I have in the mountains. It has no Protestant Clergyman resident, nor a resident protestant except myself, but the Parish Priest is a worthy respectable Gentleman; he and I have called a meeting of the most respectable of the inhabitants, but such is the want of money that we could not get Ten pounds; to this I shall add Fifty pounds, but what is that to support above Four thousand distressed beings, until the harvest.

From the Honorable and Venerable the Archdeacon of Ardagh, dated Macknay, Ballinasloe, County of Galway, June 14th, 1822.

The small tenements into which this country is divided and subdivided, have their advantages and disadvantages ;— *advantages*, because employment is afforded to the labourer, and he expends upon his garden *time*, that could not be otherwise occupied, and which produces much of his subsistence for the year :— *disadvantages*, as a temptation is held out to enter into their premature and indiscreet marriages, which swell the population beyond what has ever been contemplated. The failure in these very gardens by an adverse season, has occasioned the misery which is spread all over the south and west.

From Charles King O'Hara, Esq. Nymphsfield, County of Sligo, 17th June, 1822.

Five-sixths of the rents of this large parish are remitted from it, mostly to England. The failure of the potatoe crop, and the deficiency in the oats, have thrown numbers who in other years grew sufficient for the consumption of their families and to enable them to contribute to the support of actual paupers, into equal distress from the general want of the means of giving employment.

From the Rev. Malachy Duggan, of Donata, near Kilrush, in the County of Clare, 17th June, 1822.

The quality of the soil in the Barony of Moyarta, has in a high degree contributed to its present calamity ; it consists of yellow clay, and requires perfect temperature to answer the expectations of the husbandman ; last season being extremely wet proved fatal to it. From the Barony of Moyarta, the City of Limerick is supplied with turf ; the want of roads prevents the people from turning it to shore in the winter season ; when the summer ushered in, the price of turf became low, and the people having none but internal resources, were left in their present destitute state.

*From Major Thomas D'Arcy, Dalystown, Loughrea,
County of Galway, 20th June, 1822.*

I could not have supposed two months back that there would be any thing like the extreme distress and want that now shows through the county, as in the course of my official duty, visiting every part of my district, consisting of thirteen Baronies, I saw quantities of potatoe pits every where dispersed, but on opening them it unfortunately turned out that in many instances the potatoes had nearly rotted from continual rains; and to this, together with the great want of money, and the difficulty the labouring classes find in obtaining employment, is to be attributed the present appalling distress.

*From the Rev. M. Collins, P. P. dated Skibbereen,
County of Cork, June 20th, 1822.*

The supply of food is not less than in some other years of scarcity when the distress was not so great as at present. The quantity of food (including grain) fit for the consumption of the people is perhaps sufficient, if there were means of distributing it amongst them. The existing distress affects two classes of the population in this district. 1st. Working men of all descriptions dependent on daily or weekly wages for their subsistence. 2d. The poorer or small farmers who form a very great proportion of the peasantry. Want of employment, joined to the failure of the potatoe crop, is the cause of the distress felt by the first class. The second is not affected by the want of employment, of which enough is always found in the lands they occupy, but by the want of food caused by the failure of the potatoes, their usual article of consumption, and by the necessities of the landlords (who for the most part are middle men), whom the low prices of grain compelled to seize, at an early period of the year, the whole of the corn crops for rent, thereby leaving the occupying tenants without food, money, or credit, and in the greatest distress. The radical cause of the sufferings of this class are high rents, and low prices, which for the reason now assigned, leaves them without resource when the crop of potatoes fails.

*From the Rev. George Spaight, and G. E. Dalton,
Esq. dated Cavan, 22d June, 1822.*

So great is the difficulty of procuring money,—so general the distress among us, that the subscriptions raised in this town and its vicinity, do not amount to more than Fifty Pounds, the greater part of which has been expended on seed potatoes.

*From the Rev. Richard Thomas Hearn, Minister; the
Rev. Thomas Beirke, P.P. and the Churchwarden
of Ardagh, County of Longford, 1st July, 1822.*

From both our enquiry and our own knowledge we believe, that this calamity has arisen from a failure of the potatoe crop of last year. And find that it presses chiefly upon the labouring peasant accustomed to support himself and family under similar failures, by the fruits of his labour. Of this source, we find he is now deprived from the want of a circulating medium. And do declare, that we have found many instances of industrious poor pining with hunger while anxious for employment.

*From Justin M'Carty, Esq. Carrignavar, County of
Cork, 4th July, 1822.*

The farmers' labourer takes a house for which he generally pays about Thirty shillings, and a potatoe garden averaging about Six or Seven pounds per acre in this part of the county, and from Ten to Twelve in the rich parts, for which he pays by labour at the rate of Six-pence halfpenny per diem. Last year the potatoe crop was so bad that he left it on the farmer's hands, and was obliged to buy provisions with any little store he might have saved. The general improvidence of our peasantry rendered their means of supply but scanty, and they were driven to pledge every article they possessed. I do not exaggerate when I assure you, that in this parish there are among the labouring class few who have not disposed of bed clothes, wearing apparel, and even the few household articles they possess.

From John Godley, Esq. Killigar, in the County of Leitrim, 12th July, 1822.

The great misfortune we labour under is the want of employment for our poor, and the low price of every thing which the small farmer and manufacturer has to sell. The failure of the flax crop last year has added considerably to our difficulties, for in ordinary years, in this part of Ireland, the women of the family, by spinning the flax which has grown on their own little farm, are enabled to assist materially in the support of the house. This year they have none of their own, and are unable to buy flax. The master of the family, who probably is a weaver, suffers in consequence. In short, our distress is not to be attributed either to absolute scarcity of provisions, or to any exorbitant price which they bear in the markets, but wholly and solely to the want of money among the people.

From the Rev. Michael Tobin, P.P. Union of Ardmore, County of Waterford, 15th July, 1822.

The distress in these parishes was rather unexpected, it was only when the people were obliged to open their potatoe pits, to prepare for the spring tillage, that they found more than half their stock completely rotten and unfit for use, occasioned by the heavy and constant rains during winter. The want of employment, added to this disappointment, has thrown upwards of three hundred and fifty families, averaging five to each family, into the deepest distress. To add still more to the misfortune of these poor people, we have no resident landlord in one of the parishes, containing upwards of three thousand souls, and only two resident gentlemen in the other, besides the clergy of both persuasions—these have left nothing undone to alleviate the misery of the poor.

From the Rev. H. R. Dawson, Castlecomer, County of Kilkenny, July 19, 1822.

The parish of Castlecomer, of which I am the Rector, contains fourteen thousand inhabitants, who, being chiefly supported by working in a colliery, are in the habit of

purchasing their provisions in the neighbouring county. The receipts of that colliery have latterly decreased from £30,000 to about £13,000 per annum²; while the population has considerably encreased, so that the wages are necessarily lower, and many persons are altogether out of employment, added to which their small potatoe gardens were rendered for the most part useless by the constant rains, as I can testify from actual examination.

From Francis O'Bierne, Esq. Jamestown Lodge, Drumsna, County of Leitrim, 23d July, 1822.

The peasantry in the south and west of Ireland, (who have been the principal objects of your bounty) have been stripped of every species of property to have served as pledges, before they did or could have received alms. The loom, the wheel, the reel for yarn, and in some instances the womens' cloaks, were sold for some trifle to purchase food, and not pledged as may have been represented. Since the close of the French war, every thing termed property has been gradually sacrificed to the demands of the tithe Proctor, the collector of County cess, and the needy and impoverished landlord; the great decline in the value of agricultural produce in a country for the most part depending on it, and not met by a corresponding reduction of rent, tithe, and other charges; the serious alteration in the circulating medium—added to the failure of the last potatoe crop, have formed such a climax of misery, as can scarcely be credited by Englishmen.

From the Rev. Richard Pennesfather, Cashel, County of Tipperary, July 27th, 1822.

With the exception of a sum of £12, which has been applied to the immediate relief of the most distressed, no money has as yet been given, except for labour, the want of employment being the great evil pressing on the poor of this town; and the reality and extent of the evil will be manifest to your Committee, when I state, that numbers are daily contending for employment at eight-pence per day; and that on the first day on which employment was given, many persons tasted no food from the preceding day, till they were paid by the Committee in the evening.

From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, 2d August, 1822.

There are certain classes of the community to whom no facility of obtaining assistance seems to be afforded, from the funds placed by the government at the disposal of the Central Committee. Of this class are decent tradesmen, who by an unavoidable reverse of fortune, are reduced to the last ebb of human misery, and who, from the want of a small capital to purchase materials for work, are unable to satisfy the cravings of a numerous and helpless progeny. There are others who had seen better days, now silently sinking into the grave, because they are ashamed to make their wants known, and whose feelings will not allow them to mingle with mendicants, and crave assistance at a public store. If small remittances of money were faithfully and judiciously applied in relieving the objects I now describe, and who are so frequently to be met with in the small towns of this Archdiocese, I know of no species of charity that could be better employed, or would be productive of more good. There are many tradesmen now leading a life of idleness and poverty, who would, if enabled to purchase materials, return to their industrious habits, and become useful members of society.

From Major Powell, Sharavogue, near Roscrea, County of Tipperary, August 4th, 1822.

There have been great exertions made in this county towards the relief of the poor, by giving employment in various shapes, and it is only within the last month that distress has become so prevalent. In this county provision has been and is abundant, and very cheap. To the want of employment alone can we attribute the present misery.

From David O'Brien, Esq. Cloon, County of Leitrim, August 5th, 1822.

But the greatest of evils to be apprehended is, the destruction that must inevitably be made of the young crops of potatoes now scarcely formed in the ground, if those wretched creatures are not supported by other means, at least for this

and the two ensuing weeks. This, and the destruction of the oats, as soon as ripe for use, by converting it into whiskey, (which the extreme poverty of the people will compel them to, notwithstanding the severity of the law against it) must entail a continuance of misery, and involve our country in greater calamities for the ensuing year.

At a Meeting of the Committee for the relief of the Poor of Skibbereen and its Vicinity, held on the 6th of Aug. 1822.

Thomas Clarke, Esq. in the Chair.

Resolved—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that if they had any assurance that any considerable portion of the Poor now depending on their funds for subsistence were to be employed in public or other works under the Irish Government, they would have no occasion to trespass further on their munificent benefactors, the London Committee, for the Relief of Irish distress; but in the absence of such assurance, and well knowing the extreme poverty of the population in this district, which would disable them from *purchasing provisions though ever so abundant*, they dare not decline, until some employment is afforded, that aid, by means of which alone they have been hitherto enabled to preserve multitudes from absolute famine.

From William Hume, Esq. Glen Killybegs, County of Donegal, 14th September, 1822.

Upwards of 100 families are, at this moment, from age, sickness, or some bodily infirmity, unable to provide for their own wants, besides others who are willing to work, but have *no employment*; indeed the situation of the poor in this parish is very miserable. Their livelihood is rendered *so precarious*, from their cultivated lands being so high, and so much exposed to those dreadful gales which generally blow from the Atlantic Ocean at the season when the crops are most liable to injury, and so frequently mar the fair prospect of their harvest; but this evil is small in comparison to that which has arisen from the indolent, lazy, and immoral habits acquired by the traffic of *illicit distillation*, so universally prevalent among the lower classes here. Two

causes have tended very much to promote this injurious practice;—the inability of the people, from the want of roads to convey their produce from the parish to a market, being obliged to convert it, by manufacture, into a portable compass; and a want of incitement to other industrious occupations.

The manufacture of flannel, which, some years since, was carried on here to a considerable extent, has latterly declined very much, as well as linen—both from want of encouragement; the poor not having the means of procuring wheels, looms, or even the raw material. And thus are the females, who, in other parts of the country, contribute so much to the support of their families, and by their own example inculcate upon the minds of their children industrious habits, passing their time inactive and uselessly, or if engaged, occupying the place of the males in the more rude and laborious out-work duty.

*From A. B. Rowan, Esq. Tralee, County of Kerry,
21st September, 1822.*

And it would be unpleasant and useless to investigate the motives of other absentees who have neither merit nor necessity to plead; still, whatever is the cause, the effect on the peasantry is the same; deserted by their protectors, their natural abilities and powers are unimproved and unemployed, and now, when strangers to every thing but the wants of our people, you ask for co-operation in the benevolent work of ameliorating their condition, too many are *absent* who should be first to answer.

From the Rev. W. Urwick, Sligo, 23 September, 1822.

By the good Providence of God, we are favoured with the best of harvest weather, and the crops of all kinds in this neighbourhood are most abundant. Still, so radically bad is the condition of this wretched country, that the very bounties of the Almighty, can, in some respects, scarcely be considered as blessings. The larger the crops the lower will be the rate of sale, and the greater portion must go to satisfy the demands of the landlord. Provisions will pro-

bably be lower this season, than they have been for years preceding, but that is of little avail to benefit our poor, because they have no means of purchasing at any price. There is no work for them, no wages to be earned, no money circulating among the lower classes; in fact next to none among any class.

Until some system for giving permanent employment be provided, Ireland will never be permanently benefited. The unequalled zeal and liberality of the British public have averted the storm for this year, but if things are allowed to proceed without alteration from their present course, the general and total ruin of our population cannot be far distant. Already accumulated calamities have crushed our poor, and what might be termed in courtesy the *rich*, are beginning to feel their approach. In many cases, perhaps *most*, debts have been contracted equal to the value of estates at the highest war rents. Reduce those rents, and the proprietor is reduced to beggary.

To better the condition of this country however, education must accompany the provision of employment, such an education as will improve and form the *principles and morals* of men.

*From Dr. Lawder, Fenagh, County of Leitrim,
24th September, 1822.*

Let me entreat, for the county at large, not to exclude it, for in Ireland there is not a poorer peasantry, nor one more oppressed. No selfish motive induces me to intrude myself, but was a part of the £40,000 which the Committee have at their disposal, laid out in the manner which I took the liberty of suggesting, when I intruded myself for the benefit of this parish, and which you have so kindly promised to attend to, it would be the means of setting many hundreds of industrious people to work, who, during the unparalleled distress of our country, might have starved, were it not for English bounty and humanity. I say unparalleled, *because they pined in the midst of abundance*, from the want of the means of buying alone. They were idle for the want of capital to be employed.

*From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, Tuam,
October 1st, 1822.*

In this part of the country the agriculturists or land-holders labour under the greatest distress. Besides tithes and other heavy local assessments, they pay exorbitantly high rents for land, while the produce of the ground bears no proportion in price to the rack rents and taxes. The tenantry are thereby compelled to throw up the lands to the proprietors, and without any fault or folly on the part of the poor people, they remain unemployed, and become idlers not from choice, but from necessity. It were therefore much to be wished that your Committee and their trustees on this side of the water had it in their power to relieve this numerous and most meritorious class of the community.

The manufacture of frize for the men, and of flannel and druggat for the females, ought to be immediately undertaken, as the peasantry stand much in need of clothing.

*From the Rev. George Forster, Thurles, County of
Tipperary, 31st October, 1822.*

The great evil of the poor in my parish, is the want of employment. An overgrown population of the labouring class, tempted there in former years by cheap food and fuel, and the demand for labour, which eight distilleries (now relinquished) gave rise to, are without employment for above half their time, and are existing in rags, filth, and wretchedness.

PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS

FOR THE

RELIEF OF DISTRESS.



*From the Earl of Bantry, County of Cork,
24th May, 1822.*

Lord Bantry begs to say, that in this Barony, *employment* would make every one happy ; food can be had, but not the means ; and employment would be of great service, prevent disaffection, and complete useful and necessary works.

*From Col. Trench, Ballynakill, Queen's County,
26th May, 1822.*

I have only one observation to make. That in every case assistance would be most usefully administered, not as a donation, but as a loan ; to be repaid by weekly instalments or by employment, or by both, withholding from the payment of work done, that proportion which it is judged right to take each week in liquidation of the loan.

The practical lesson thus taught to poor Irishmen, will be of infinitely more permanent advantage than the most liberal donations.

A gift of money or food would lead to an indulgence of naturally idle habits, and an utter abandonment of all self exertion, and at the same time the system of loan would infinitely enlarge the field of your benevolence.

At a Meeting held at Woodford, the 28th of May, 1822, to consider the state of the Distressed and Starving Poor in the Parish of Ballinakill, County of Galway,—

Resolved,—That we conceive the distress could certainly be removed by finding *employment* for the poor. There are many local objects, not only of utility, but we may say of necessity, in this mountainous district, in making and repairing public lines of roads and bridges, as well as narrow roads to the numerous poor villages, which, from the great increase of population, are dispersed over the mountains; and at present many of the poor people are obliged to carry their produce (oats), to market on their backs, as in the winter season it is almost impossible for the mountain horses and baskets to travel.

From the Rev. Robert Irwin, Athenry, County of Galway, 28th May, 1822.

As wool is the staple commodity of this county, and its manufacture into frizes perfectly understood by every family, by giving out so many stones to each on their giving security from their landlords for the re-payment of the price of it after being manufactured and sold, would, in my opinion, be not only a stimulus to industry, and be a means of enabling the poor to obtain fully the necessaries of life, but make them comfortable.

From Richard Grubb, Esq. Clogheen, County of Tipperary, 1st June, 1822.

In order to afford permanent relief, the writer proposes to have large tracts of reclaimable mountain purchased in different counties of the south of Ireland, to let to such families as are in need of employment, certain portions thereof, to assist them with the means whereby they may enclose said land, erect habitations thereon, and provide farming utensils, &c.; give them encouraging leases, a few of the first years to be rent free; as such ground never did yield any advantage to the present proprietor, (save game)

might it not be expected that Parliament, in its wisdom, would see fit as a stimulus to exertion, to enact, that these lands should be for ever exempt from tithe. A Committee to be formed in each county or division, to visit those farms occasionally, and annually to reward those who had their lands best cultivated, houses and children in the neatest and best order; a school or schools should be established in each colony.

At the present moment the employment at roads or other public works is highly necessary; but when these are completed, surely, unless some permanent employment is established, the labouring class will again be thrown on the country without the means of subsistence, therefore it must be of the most vital importance to place the poor in a way, whereby they can, by their own industry and exertion, continue from year to year to support their families, and ultimately become comfortable. The funds that are, and will be subscribed, it is deemed (by proper management) will be competent to do the needful in this way:—what a pleasing reflection it would be to the subscribers, that they were the means of rescuing the poor from misery, and introducing them to habits of industry, cleanliness, and comfort, and, at the same time, causing them to be useful members of the community, and in some degree contribute to the state, inasmuch as they will be regularly consuming exciseable articles, such as leather, tobacco, &c.

In order to cause the reformation in those people to be more complete, it is thought that it will be necessary to revise the penal code; punishment by death has not the desired effect, such frequent scenes tend only to harden the mind; the general feeling among them is, that such as suffer die martyrs to their cause, whereas if workhouses were erected, and labour therein for a limited period, to be the sentence of the law, we might expect, by proper management and care, to have the morals of the offender reclaimed, and after being employed at, and instructed in some useful branch of trade, be enabled at his discharge to earn his bread honestly, and enjoy the fruits thereof with gratitude.

Better their condition by permanent independent employment, and it will be found that in place of this description of people being a burden on the empire at large, we should behold those now waste unproductive flats in the mountainous countries become cultivated, and the people civilized and happy.

*Advertisement of the Royal Dublin Society, transmitted
by Dr. William Harty, 13th June, 1822.*

The Committee of Agriculture, being authorised by a Resolution of the Society, forthwith to offer premiums, not exceeding in the whole £500, to such persons as shall, within the three ensuing months, afford the most extensive employment to the poor in the distressed districts of the south and west, hereby give notice, that they will expend the above sum in bounties on the erection of cottages, according to a plan that has been approved of by the Committee, and with copies of which, all persons applying for such bounties shall be furnished. The Committee will therefore receive proposals for the erection of such cottages within the time above specified, and will grant bounties of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entire expense, giving the preference to such proposers as shall offer to erect the same on the lowest bounty. The estimated expense of each cottage does not on an average exceed £15. It must be furnished with a kitchen garden of not less than one quarter of an acre, and planted in the hedge rows with trees. The landlord must give a tenure of seven years at least, and may charge a rent at the rate of 5 per cent. on his own expenditure, independently of the ground, said rent to be remitted to the tenant provided he keeps his cottage in good repair and neat order, and protects the timber.

Proposals, specifying the name, designation, and address of the proposer, the number of cottages he proposes to erect, and the rate of bounty he expects, to be forwarded to B. Mc. Carthy, Esq. assistant Secretary to the Society, on or before the 1st day of July next; in one week after which date the Committee will decide on the proposals, to which a preference shall have been given. The parties applying for such premiums, must shew by affidavit or otherwise, that the employment so given, and for which a premium is sought, was given with reference to such premium, and would not otherwise have taken place.

The Committee further give notice, that an additional sum of £200 British, has been placed at their disposal, by a Gentleman to whom that sum was entrusted by the London Committee, for purposes the same as those stated in the foregoing advertisement, and which they will accordingly expend in conformity thereto.

*Suggestions submitted by Dr. William Harty of
Dublin, to the London Committee, 4th June, 1822.*

As it would doubtless be gratifying to the Committee to improve the morals and future condition, as well as to preserve the lives of the starving Irish, they will be disposed to concur in the opinion that all relief, whether in the shape of money or of food, should, as far as possible, be granted as an equivalent for the labour of the person relieved. It is, I trust, unnecessary to dwell on the great importance of this principle, and upon the propriety of acting upon it as quickly as possible. No doubt those who are at the moment starving and without the means of providing food, must, at first, be fed gratuitously; but the instant that any plan of general labour can be organised, gratuitous relief should be withheld from those who are capable of labour. Much valuable time would be lost in waiting for public works on which to employ the poor, it is, therefore, necessary to seize on every useful means of employment that can be immediate, and at the same time diffused.

The provision stores also should, when it can be done with safety, be dispersed over the face of the country, and not by any means be confined to the cities and towns; for let it be remembered that you have to contend against fever as well as famine, and that if the poor are congregated, or any inducements held out for them to migrate from their own districts to the neighbouring towns, wide diffusion will, to a certainty, be given to fever.

The present object is to relieve immediate and temporary distress by temporary means, productive as far as possible, of both present and permanent good, and carefully to avoid any measures of immediate relief which may be productive of future mischief.

To accomplish these ends, and to prevent the diffusion of fevers, relief must, as speedily as possible, be given through the medium of employment, as extensive and general as the distress itself; the depôts of provisions should be widely diffused; and those means of employment sought out which will keep the poor as much as possible in their own districts. For this purpose I would name a few of such modes of occupation, to which, no doubt, many others might be added, viz. For women and children, weeding; for adult men, filling up ditches at the road sides, repairing highways, &c.; the species of occupation, however, to which I would particularly draw the attention of the Committee, would be

that of employing the poor cottiers possessed of a little ground, in the erection of cabins for themselves of a proper construction, built of the same materials as at present, but consisting of three rooms, two of them bed-rooms, one for males, the other for females; each cabin to have an enclosed kitchen garden, and detached pig-stye, with either of which few of them at present are furnished; the timber and straw to be supplied by their landlords, or by the local funds.

Such a measure would be immediate and salutary in its operations, most agreeable to the poor themselves, and ultimately productive of incalculable good, in preventing fever and civilising the inhabitants.

*From Eneas Macdonnell, Esq. dated Dublin,
June 12th, 1822.*

Another object should be, the protection of the moral habits of the people. You would not willingly encourage an habitual disposition to idleness and mendicancy. You would rather endeavour to prevent the extinction of that wholesome pride which shrinks from mendicancy as a degrading and discreditable alternative. This is in my mind a most material point for consideration, with a view to the future state of Ireland; and therefore I would propose that no part of the articles hereinafter referred to, should be given gratuitously. I would prefer selling a pound's worth for a penny, if necessary. You may say, that money must be given gratuitously to purchase the articles; so it must, but money can be given *privately* and *discreetly*, whereas the smallest quantity of food or the other articles cannot be given gratuitously, without an exposure of the mendicant condition of the receiver.

*From the Honorable and Venerable The Archdeacon
of Ardagh, dated Macknay, County of Galway,
June 14th, 1822.*

Undoubtedly the improvement of bog opens an inexhaustible source for industry; but we have too many hands for the ordinary work; labour is a drug with us; and we have literally no capital, and of course no enterprize.

I think there is enough food in Ireland for her population; about here there is certainly no deficiency, the market is teeming, and yet we are in want. Under my present impression, money is what we want, and nothing else.

*From Thomas Cosins, Esq. County of Waterford,
20th June, 1822.*

As your Committee will have the disposal of considerable sums of money for the immediate relief of the distressed Irish, I beg leave to say, that I have lately been in treaty with the Government for the embanking Tramore back Strand, near Waterford, in Ireland, consisting of about fifteen hundred acres of land, which when completed, will be of the first quality, and of great national importance in several points of view. The expense of effecting this plan will amount to ten thousand pounds and upwards, and will be completed in about three years. I propose to borrow of the Committee £6000, to be secured on this land at 4 per cent. interest, to commence at the expiration of the said three years, or sooner if required. This money to be advanced in proportion as the work proceeds. Should a plan of this nature meet your approbation, it will be the means of immediate employment for a great number of the inhabitants.

From the Right Honourable Lord Carbery, Castle Freke, County of Cork, 21st June, 1822.

A few weeks, please God, will put an end to the present distress, but what steps are to be taken to prevent its recurrence? I have no hesitation in saying, that unless something can be done to give employment to the crowded population of this country, that you will see an annual recurrence of this misery. We have no manufacture of any extent but land and linen, and we have hands much more than enough for both these; no doubt there are considerable tracts of ground capable of improvement and cultivation, but those things require capital, and that we have not: and even supposing we had, increasing the aggregate quantity of corn and potatoes is of no use, unless we have a market for them at a reasonably remunerating price. Lands are lowered here to the standard of 1796, and yet rents are not paid. I

- wish things could be so managed that you would take all our surplus produce and pay us in your manufactures,—both countries would be benefited. If we had a sure market for our grain, our agriculture would improve and our industry increase.
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*From Dr. John Church, Listowel, County of Kerry,
1st Aug. 1822.*

I wrote to Mr. Harenc lately, a gentleman residing in Kent, but connected with this country; and on his application to your generous Committee, I was favoured with your letter of the 16th ultimo, inclosing £200, which I shall hold over for the particular object, if other applications should be equally successful—if not, I shall hold it for your redisposal. The work in question would give employment to five hundred poor labourers every day for three months—would run for about eight miles through six or seven of the most distressed parishes in all Kerry, with several little villages, and without a resident gentleman to look to the situation of the poor in them. It would undoubtedly embrace the interests of individuals, some of whom I have written to, and they have promised to contribute, but others are unable from the general pressure, which weighs down every one. The work itself would be of considerable utility in the country, but my foundation stone, *is the employment of the poor as the best medium of relief.* I would give to each labourer two pottles of oatmeal per day, equal to eight pence, the common hire. There are some public works ordered by the Government, and by public bodies, which are going to be undertaken, such as piers and quays; but they lie chiefly on the coast, and in the vicinity of our principal town, Tralee. They are undoubtedly primary objects, but the population of their respective vicinities is more than sufficient for their execution, while that of the interior will be left unemployed, should nothing of the kind I have suggested be undertaken.

*From Dr. Elmore, Clonakilty, County of Cork,
3d August, 1822.*

It was not a dearth of food we suffered under in this country; but of the means to purchase. What under proper direction, would be the wealth of a nation, is here, pro-

ductive of direful misery. The population too great—a quantum left to work and depend on the soil unrelieved by manufacture, with all the capabilities of nature,—but the want of capital meets and obstructs us at every turn. Could not a fund be formed on the Tontine or some such principle?—which, aided by Government, would be effectual, and must ultimately turn out very lucrative to share-holders therein. If you, Sir, from your known philanthropy, thought a fund could be created to the extent of any thing over £50,000, I will lay before you a plan which, if aided by the Government, would shortly place the South of Ireland, at least on a par with the North of this fine country, and vie with them in habits of industry and comfort.

*From the Rev. W. R. Smith, dated Elphin,
11th Aug. 1822.*

I do again take the liberty of strongly recommending your Committee requiring works for any sums you may remit.—The idle habits contracted, from gratuitous relief, will I am afraid be productive of much mischief. There are a number of poor females in this town (Elphin) who would be delighted to be employed in spinning.

*From the Rev. Robert Kirchhoffer, Clondrohid Glebe
House, County of Cork, dated 19th Aug. 1822.*

It is worth remarking that this parish is so extensive that heretofore it has paid £650 annually for county charges,—that no aid of any signification has been given to the parish out of these funds,—that the money so raised has been allocated to other places, and that it has acted as a sort of *absentee drainage* of money from this parish. As many of your honourable and munificent Committee are Members of Parliament, I should humbly beg leave to suggest a plan, which if properly digested, would, I am convinced, provide for future exigencies, and would form a resource for the future relief of the distressed peasantry. It appears by the statement signed by our Local Committee, that the average annual charge has been £650; suppose that the same rates were continued, and that one half was allowed to go for

general purposes and the remaining half to be allotted exclusively for the use of the parish itself; there would be then available for relieving the distress of the poor, from the 20th May to the 20th August (a season in which distress generally prevails), the sum of £325. This tax, heretofore paid with discontent and reluctance, would then be cheerfully paid, and the advantage derived in the general improvement of the country, besides providing for the poor, would be very great: the money of course to be expended in employment, to be paid weekly, and by such persons as the Government, Grand Juries, &c. might appoint.

• *From the Most Reverend Dr. Oliver Kelly, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, 28th August, 1822.*

Another work in which many hands could be most advantageously employed is—the erection of school houses. I regret to state that at present there is not a single school in the extensive and populous district of Achill, comprising a population of upwards of Four thousand individuals, many of whom would be most anxious to participate in the great blessings of education. A few years ago an attempt was made by these poor people to build a house in a central spot, eighty feet in length by twenty in breadth, which was to answer the double purpose of a school during the week, and a house of worship on Sundays. The walls were raised about two feet above the surface, when from the pressure of the times, and want of means, the work has been discontinued. I herewith send a rough draft that may give some idea of that part of the country, and the relative position of the intended house. With respect to the population, were they now enabled to finish the house and to erect two small schools, one in the north-west extremity, the other in the south-eastern extremity, such undertakings would give employment to numerous labourers and tradesmen, and would besides remove one great obstacle that stands in the way of education, and of training them in their youthful days to moral and industrious habits.

At a Meeting of the permanent Central Committee of the County of Cork, held in the Grand Jury Room, 5th September, 1822.

Resolved,—That in directing our attention to the employment of our people, we shall be governed by such suggestions as we shall be occasionally favoured with from Government, holding it of the first importance to afford all the encouragement in our power to the Fisheries, and to the extension of the Linen manufacture in this county.

Resolution of the Central Committee of the County of Clare, 13th September, 1822.

That temporary expedients are totally inadequate for the improvement of the state of our Peasantry, plunged as they are in a state approaching to absolute pauperism ; and that it is imperative upon us to concur in any measures which have for their object, the providing means for affording special encouragement and facility to meritorious industry, to rescue itself from the evils of habitual reliance upon public bounty.

Plan of an Institution for Agricultural Improvement at Bannow, in the County of Wexford.

There are about twenty boys in the Bannow Agricultural School ; their ages vary from thirteen to nineteen : these boys are apprenticed to the Moral Master for five years ; none are inadmissible from religious distinctions,—the Protestants attend divine worship at church, the Roman Catholics are sent to the chapel, and the respective parochial clergymen instruct and direct in spiritual matters.

The boys who were admitted into the school at its formation were received without any higher annual charge for education, diet, and clothing, than four guineas per annum ; it has been found necessary however to raise the terms, and no boys have lately been received with lesser fee than thirty guineas paid on entrance, which is at the rate of six guineas per annum. The hours of study and labour vary according to season and weather—about four hours every day from the

25th of March to the 29th of September are allotted to study, and six hours to work; in winter there are more hours for study and fewer for labour. In the neighbourhood of towns, where a sale of garden vegetables, &c. may be calculated on, and where private gardens may be dressed by the boys of agricultural Seminaries at considerable annual profit, a lesser sum than four guineas (supposing the agricultural farm soil to be good and at moderate rent) would be sufficient to defray the expenses of each boy.

Of the boys at the Bannow establishment six or seven are already very good ploughmen; they are instructed by a skilful Scotch agriculturist in all the branches of husbandry. Some of the boys have a peculiar turn for gardening; these are indulged in the gratification of their taste, and pass their hours of labour in the garden. Some of the boys will probably become Schoolmasters. "Merit Tickets," to which a positive value is annexed, are distributed weekly; some are given for proficiency in school studies, others for *good* conduct and industry; *fining* is frequently resorted to, and the withholding or taking away these tickets is almost the only punishment introduced.

The Bannow School has been founded from private funds, and has hitherto solely depended on them. Any assistance from those who are interested in the prosperity of Ireland will be most thankfully accepted.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE AGENTS.

o *Dublin, 23d July, 1822.*

Messrs. Hyett, Warmington, and Brearley, beg leave to report, that they have this day waited on the Mansion House Committee, as well as that organised at the Castle by the Government. Nothing can exceed the politeness and attention shewn by both Committees, in giving every possible information, and forwarding the particular objects of the mission.

From Mr. Hyett, dated Galway, 26th July, 1822.

Having reached our first point of destination, I beg leave to commence the series of "Reports," which (according to instructions received) it is the duty of my colleagues and self to lay before you. In my way here, while the horses were changing, I made a hasty call on the Post-master at Moat, which place I learnt at Dublin, had been the scene of much distress. I am happy to state that a supply of provisions has been obtained, and but for the daily arrival of strangers, to whose pressing necessities they cannot always turn a deaf ear, there is a store ample enough to maintain the poor, until the ripening of the potatoe crop.

We found, fortunately, on our arrival, that His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, who resides in the neighbourhood, was in this town; having, agreeably to our instructions,

waited on him, His Grace was pleased to advise, that Mr. Warmington should proceed to the county of Clare, and Mr. Brearley and myself make a tour through the wild district of Connamara.

I have seen some most pitiable objects, who, in a state of starvation have left their homes, in the remote parts of the country, and hastened hither for relief. Several cargoes of these wretched sufferers have, by the indefatigable exertions of His Grace of Tuam, assisted by the Mayor, Mr. Burke, and the Collector of Customs, Mr. Reilly, been fed and sent to their habitations, with a store of provisions for their future support.

27th July.

Since I had last the honor of addressing you, I have witnessed some appalling proofs of the distress that pervades this part of the country; groups of emaciated creatures are lying in the streets of this town, soliciting food, while the bye lanes and outskirts are crowded with wretched beings who, in addition to famine, have to struggle with the ravages of disease. Some huddled together in closely-pent cabins, breathing an atmosphere loaded with infection — others, more than half naked, have taken possession of ruins and unroofed sheds, exposed to the inclemency of the weather. I bestowed relief on the widow and orphans (five in number) of a poor stranger, who actually expired on a dunghill at the door of a hut, in which his family had taken shelter. — At 11 o'clock this morning, I accompanied the Mayor to a yard, where nearly 3000 of these distressed creatures were congregated to receive their daily allowance of food. The squalid appearance of this assemblage of men, women, and children, will never be effaced from my recollection. Here, regardless of the danger of imbibing infection, and reckless of fatigue, the benevolent Archbishop of Tuam was assiduously directing the issue of that stream, which the fountain of Charity liberally poured forth, so, that each individual should in his turn, receive a refreshing share. By a statement shewn to me, it appeared, that in the last twenty-nine days, 67,457 meals had been furnished in this manner, to poor creatures who had no other means of procuring sustenance — the manner in which they implored blessings on their benefactors was affecting in the extreme.

Connamara, 28th July.

The tract of country called Connamara, contains about 350,000 acres; the entrance to it is rather gloomy, a few solitary patches of cultivation only being seen amidst immense heaths and extensive bogs; proceeding onwards, some magnificent mountains appear, and at their feet a succession of fine lakes. Having attended a meeting of the Local Committee at Cliffden, and collected their reports, I passed down the coast to Ballinakill, where I met Mr. Loftus, a Catholic Priest, from whom had been received a statement of the most harrowing description; this he confirmed by the concurrent testimony of several witnesses who attributed the death of the victims alluded to "*to starvation and unwholesome diet.*" I entered many of the cabins; they were of the most wretched kind, walls and floors of clay, the roof of thatch or sod, filthy and destitute of furniture; the few inmates that remained, were, for the most part, old and decrepid: the garden was waste; no poultry were to be seen; no cows, no pigs: those who emigrated had exhausted every means of subsistence ere they quitted their homes. Very few turf stacks remained; at the proper period for providing fuel, the people were too weak and dispirited to work in the bogs. Among the evils to be apprehended, a want of fuel must be enumerated!

Having crossed this district in several directions, I embarked in a fishing-boat and coasted along the shores: clusters of cabins were to be seen wherever a shelter from the winds of the Atlantic ocean could be found; these were the abodes of men who at one season of the year cultivated the ground, at another were fishermen or pilots. A few columns of smoke streaming along the coast, indicated the process of burning kelp, the manufacture of which, at one period, was prosecuted with success, but the demand has greatly diminished, partly from a practice (which eventually defeats its intention) of deteriorating the quality of the material. We looked into several of the bays which indent the rocky shores:—that the inhabitants have severely suffered, their squalid looks, swollen legs, and naked bodies sufficiently testify. On the beach, were some of the rudest habitations I had ever witnessed; the rafters which supported the roof, rested on the ground and were composed of fragments of wreck; the sand was excavated to a depth sufficient for a person to sit, but not stand upright, and into this den the family crawled, cowering over a heap of moul-

dering turf, the smoke of which prevented the eye from penetrating its recesses.

At Spidelle, a pier was erecting by order of the Fishery board, affording shelter to the boats that ply along this dangerous coast : the people are most anxious to get employment wherever it is to be found. I should observe, that the female peasantry, of Connamara are the manufacturers of a description of worsted stockings in some degree of request all over Ireland ; but from the want of local markets, and something of system in the management, the trade has never been carried to any extent, a circumstance much to be regretted. Near this is an island called Garomna, which Mr. Lennan, the Catholic Clergyman, informs me has suffered very severely, there being no resident gentleman. It has of late received attention from the Galway Committee, and provisions are daily sending thither.

Galway, 29th July.

I beg to report to you that I have just returned to this place from an examination of Connamara ; the result of my enquiry is, a conviction that *many hundreds of our fellow creatures must have perished, had not the charity funds presented the means of subsistence.* Their condition is now considerably ameliorated ; they have food for the present, and employment is offered by Government to those who will work ; but it must not be concealed that their winter prospect is still very dreary ; many families have no potatoe crop, their domestic poultry have been consumed, very few are in the possession of a pig, and there is scarcely a head of cattle in the country. Their clothing is miserably scanty, but to this privation, custom has in some degree reconciled them. A more serious evil will be found in the want of fuel ; no turf has yet been spaded, and unless the weather should continue unusually fine, the grievance will be past remedy.

30th July.

I have taken a walk through the streets of Galway, and notwithstanding the unremitted exertions of the local authorities, aided by His Grace of Tuam, I am shocked at the misery which yet prevails. Here, as to a common centre, rush the inhabitants of the surrounding country ; the famish-

ing for food, and the sick for medical assistance ; the fever hospital, which I visited, has been full for several days ; an additional number of patients are to be received into a large house, which has just been hired for their reception. The following statement has been communicated by a respectable person who resides near this town.

“ This morning a poor woman called at my house, entreating food for herself and four famishing children, one of whom was much exhausted ; while my wife was getting some butter-milk for them, the children set up a shriek, and on enquiring the cause, it appeared that the poor little sufferer, who was about ten years of age, had expired. Since the preceding morning the family had tasted no other food than a single biscuit.”

I have the pleasure of announcing the safe arrival of the schooner Waterford, of Weymouth, laden with rice and biscuits : she came in last evening.

Ballyduggan, 2d August, 1822.

Departing a second time from Galway, my route lay through a variegated country, of pasture land interspersed with fast-ripening corn and thriving potatoe crops ; the latter, springing chiefly from English and Scotch seed-potatoes are very fine. At the village of Oran-more, a fair was holding ; this little village was some years since the mart for coarse woollen cloth, but the trade has latterly declined. At Lough Rea I attended a meeting which was hastily summoned, of the local Committee, and was much gratified to observe with what accuracy the accounts were kept. I have seen, in one of the public prints, an assertion that “ the distribution of the charity funds is *loose and indiscriminate* ;” it may be satisfactory to enquire whether the charge can or cannot be substantiated. In the first place, I find it has been the custom, to take a census of the distressed population, reference being made to the Catholic clergyman, whose intimate acquaintance with the actual state and means of his parishioners enabled him to distinguish between the real object of charity and the impostor ; this return was submitted to the consideration of the central Committee for the district ; an assembly composed of the most active and benevolent resident gentry, whose local knowledge gave them the means of forming a judgment as to the propriety of the claim ; if it received the sanction of this body, a grant was made in meal or biscuit,

or, in cases where carriage was difficult, or the articles could be purchased on the spot at a cheaper rate, in money. This supply was calculated to last a given time, at the expiration of which period, vouchers for its actual expenditure were to be produced before another supply was furnished. This system I find has been generally adopted, and I cannot speak in too high terms of the devotedness with which many of the country gentlemen have applied themselves to the business.

From Lough-rea I proceeded to Daly's Town, the residence of Major D'Arcy, who represents the state of his neighbourhood to have been of the most deplorable kind, and assures me, that but for the *providential assistance sent into it, a considerable part of the population must have been the victims of the dreadful calamity which afflicted the country.*

Ballyn-Derry, 3d August.

On the subject of clothing—the necessity for furnishing as large a supply as possible, before winter, will be apparent when it is known that eight-tenths of the poor are almost in a state of nudity. This may be in some measure habitual, but the distress of the times has had a powerful effect in diminishing the small stock of apparel belonging to the peasantry: this morning, I conversed with a man, who assured me, that, within the last two months, he had been obliged to sell his little furniture, blankets, and clothes, to procure food for his starving family. I beg leave to observe, that the assistance of some benevolent ladies in the distribution of wearing apparel would be very desirable, and I have had the pleasure of meeting with several, who, I am convinced, would most willingly lend their aid.

I much fear that the supplies hitherto furnished, will not prove adequate to the extensive wants of the people, and that unless some additional subsistence can be found, the consequence will be a general breaking in upon the yet unripened potatoe crop, an event fraught with present mischief, from the unwholesome nature of the root if used for food before it is mature, and to be further deprecated, inasmuch as it diminishes most improvidently the means of future support. It is true that Government has provided extensive employment,—a most desirable measure.

Tham, 4th August.

In my progress through the country of late, instead of pursuing the regular track, I have gone among the more retired hamlets; in these, are to be seen some most pitiable objects, chiefly females, old men, and children, who are unable to make advantage of the employment proffered; especially in situations where no resident gentry are found to bring forward and urge their lamentable cases: here, I have thought it my duty to distribute freely, the pecuniary relief with which I have been confidentially entrusted, and I must not fail to record the existence of a proud and honourable feeling, which frequently dictated the enquiry, "what is the money for?" "what is to be done with this?"—And where a cluster of cabins were contiguous, (I speak of places remote from public roads, where mendicity is always clamorous), it was with some difficulty that I could prevail upon an individual to be the *first* to receive alms, although the sunken cheek, hollow eye, and scarcely covered body, too clearly indicated the extreme of poverty.

August 5th.

This morning, I attended a meeting of the Central Committee, and I feel it incumbent on me to bear witness to the systematic arrangement of the business, and the great exertions of those Gentlemen who compose this benevolent body. His Grace the Archbishop, is indefatigable; he left Galway at 4 p. m. to be present on the occasion.

Among the *poor*, feelings of gratitude for the charitable contributions every where prevalent, is at once gratifying and affecting; the last act at night and the first in the morning, of thousands of our fellow subjects, who have been saved from famishing, is an invocation for "*blessings on the generous English.*" More prejudices and bitter feelings have been removed within the last three months, than under any other circumstances, could have been effected in as many centuries. And I have no doubt but the present calamity, will eventually prove a source of comfort and congratulation to both *England and Ireland.*

Castlebar, 8th August.

It is with much satisfaction that I convey to you the intelligence, that the inhabitants of this part of the country are recovering from the effects of the late awful visitation; and by the blessing of Providence, a few weeks more, will place them in a state of—I was about to write *comfort*—but I fear that word cannot fairly be applied to a people, who, in a general way, live in a pig-stie, lie on the damp floor, use the coarsest food, and go about half naked.

I have attended at the investigation of a case, wherein a mal-appropriation of the charity funds, was said to have taken place. I am happy to state that the charge has been rebutted on the clearest proofs; many imputations of this nature have gone abroad; some of them, perhaps, may be founded on facts, and when it is recollected, that at the commencement of the distress, the *lives of thousands of human creatures* depended on the most *prompt measures*, and the smallest delay might have produced fatal consequences, it can be no matter of surprise if, in the hasty distribution of relief, a few sums of money should have fallen into improper and unworthy hands, but I firmly believe that in general the funds have been faithfully administered and judiciously applied.

The chairman of the Central Committee has suggested the propriety of deferring the transmission of the accounts, (which have been kept with the most scrupulous accuracy) until he has procured the *returns*, which will in a few days be due from the different local Committees; on their arrival, the documents will be forwarded for your inspection.

Dool Castle, 11th August.

Impelled by the recollection of your instructions, that as far as possible, I should “see with my own eyes” the state of the country, I have lately made some fatiguing excursions, I am happy to add, without impairing my health or strength; the mind, when occupied by the act of observation, and while employed in the collection of information, sustains the body, under ordinary exertions, and, thank Providence, I have as yet had no *extraordinary ones* to encounter; nothing can exceed the expressions of gratitude, which the poor peo-

ple employ, when speaking of their "*English benefactors*," even in the most remote situations. I have found some families, in the mountainous districts who obtained their seed potatoes so late, that they will need support for several weeks, but in general their condition is daily improving.

I waited upon the Bishop of Killala yesterday, and had a long conversation on the state of the country. 'His Lordship testifies, that but for the *timely arrival of the provision vessels*, a large portion of his population must have perished.

Balling, 13th August.

At a meeting of the local Committee of this place, your communication of the 25th ultimo, on the propriety of making *additional grants*, was discussed; it appears, that the crops in this neighbourhood, are very late, from the difficulty of procuring seed potatoes. A resolution to this purpose will be forwarded for your consideration, and under existing circumstances, the application will, I doubt not, receive a favorable answer. A statement has been handed to me, detailing scenes of most appalling distress, which occurred here in the early part of this awful visitation; and to this day many handicraftsmen, such as coopers, hat-manufacturers, brogue-makers, &c. are labouring on the roads and in the river, to obtain a meal of food, being unable to procure their wonted employment: every effort is now making to ameliorate the general condition of the inhabitants.

Swinford, 21st August.

For several days I have been traversing the country in various directions; traces of the *late distress*, and I have the satisfaction of adding, *present improvement*, are every where visible. I had an opportunity of witnessing the distribution of the *charity meal* and biscuit; having in a former communication mentioned transactions between the Committees, it may be satisfactory to pursue the details of the system. A store house is provided in some central or convenient situation; here at stated periods attend some members of the local Committee with their clerk, and generally the Catholic Clergyman. The applicant produces a ticket, with which

he has previously been furnished, on which is inscribed the *rations* appropriated to his use; if on examination this is correct, the provisions are delivered to him; on the other hand, if a fraud is detected, the ticket is torn and the bearer sent empty away. I cannot sufficiently admire the patience and perseverance of many Gentlemen who cheerfully devote whole days to the execution of the benevolent duty of ministering to the wants of the necessitous.

Sligo, 24th August.

As you have done me the honour to request my opinion on the subject of cloathing, I beg leave to observe, that I should deem the proposal of *manufacturing* it on the spot, infinitely preferable to that of sending over clothes *ready made*. The process of spinning, carding, hackling, and weaving the wool and flax, would supply the means of employment (the greatest desideratum here), especially of that *domestic kind*, which is of the greatest benefit, as it enables the female to give her assistance towards the maintenance of the family, and moreover, takes her from the execution of the slavish occupations which she is too often doomed to perform. The *materials* too are better adapted to the habits of the people and the moisture of the climate; and a preference, I presume, would be given to the form and fashion they have been accustomed to.

The suggestion of the Committee, proposing to lend out small sums to inferior tradesmen, is, I think, considerate, and may be advantageously carried into effect; due care being taken (if the measure is intended to be permanent) that the securities for the repayment are sufficiently responsible.

I apprehend that a portion of the remaining funds cannot be more humanely or usefully employed, than in the purchase of *fuel*; many places are, to my knowledge, deficient in that necessary article. I beg also to state, that in several situations, whole families will be without food the ensuing winter, from the impossibility of obtaining seed-potatoes, or inability to retain and plant them at the proper season.

In my late journey from Castlebar, I met with several distressing cases of fever and dysentery; those in Mayo, I referred to the consideration of a medical gentleman residing

at Swinford, under the superintendence of Dr. Keane. The portion of the parish within the county of Sligo, I find has been much neglected, there being no resident gentleman to apply on their behalf. I have sent for a supply of rice and biscuit for their use.

Sligo, 27th August.

Yesterday I attended a meeting of the Central Committee; I am sorry to state that the inspection of their accounts has not been as satisfactory as could be wished; notwithstanding the utmost exertion of their worthy secretary, Rev. W. Urwick, few of the local returns have been yet furnished. I took the liberty of suggesting the propriety of establishing a *board of accounts* (a measure which had been advantageously adopted at Castlebar), whose province it should be to call for and examine the necessary reports.

The Committee for the town of Sligo, requested my attendance this morning; I have the satisfaction of saying, that their accounts have been kept with the utmost attention, they hold in their hands a balance to the amount of £1890, of this sum, I have advised that *one thousand pounds* (which I estimate will be sufficient to finish them) shall be appropriated to the purpose of completing the various roads, footpaths, and other works, now in a state of progress; and the *remainder* be laid by, for the support of widows, orphans, and others, unable to work, and also to meet the exigencies of the approaching winter.

I find that in some places, difficulties have arisen as to what *mode of work* the poor, many of whom are inexperienced labourers, shall be employed about. Whenever an opportunity has occurred, I have ventured to recommend the construction of *causeways*, for foot passengers, the reparation of streets and bye lanes; the filling up of those *sinks of abomination* at their doors and under their windows, the whitewashing of the cabins, and such labour as shall mainly contribute to the comfort and convenience of the peasantry themselves, in preference to the practice usually resorted to, of *making roads*, which often interferes with the operations of the Government engineers, (who are busily engaged in the prosecution of this kind of work), or with the reparation of those provided for by county presentments.

I once entertained the idea that a large number of labourers might be employed in the draining of bogs and the construction of fences ; the proprietor of the estate, paying only a small quota of the wages, to make the improvement worth his attention. But Ireland is a peculiar country, and the adoption of such a measure might lead to abuse, or at least misrepresentation.

The accounts from different parts of the country are equally satisfactory ; the season of distress is passing away.

Boyle, 31st August.

I have just returned from an inspection of the Curlew mountains, the late scene of much distress, and I find that disease, the usual attendant upon improper or insufficient diet, is making considerable ravages among the inhabitants. Medical attendance has been procured, and they have now sufficient food.

Rockingham, 3d September.

At Carrick upon Shannon yesterday, I attended a meeting of the Central Committee of the county of Leitrim, and had much pleasure in observing the regular and business-like manner in which their accounts are kept. There were gentlemen present from various parts of the country, they concur in stating that the potatoe crop of this season is abundant, and may now, without injury, be resorted to ; the corn harvest too is very luxuriant, and the labourers find present employment.

5th September.

The Central Committee (on which I attended) for Roscommon, met yesterday at Elphin, and I am happy to bear witness to the laudable and benevolent exertions of its members. The accounts of the state of the country continue to be of the most satisfactory description.

Strokestown, 7th September.

Some time has elapsed since my receipt of letters from London, but Lord Lorton, whose guest I lately had the honour to be, has made me acquainted with your appropriation of the balance in hand. I was on the first view doubtful of the policy that recommended the appropriation of so large a portion of it to the encouragement of the *linen trade*, but further reflection has convinced me that it is a beneficial measure, and one from which the most important results may be expected.

Linen is the staple commodity of Ireland; the soil is well adapted to the growth of flax, and the peasantry are somewhat accustomed to its cultivation; it affords much domestic employment, and would fill up, advantageously, the time of the peasant when not engaged in his agricultural occupations. A large supply of wheels, reels, hackles, &c. should be procured, of an improved construction, to enable the females to perform their part. The sum allocated to each county, in order to effect its purpose, will require particular management; perhaps the mode of accommodating small tradesmen concerned in the linen trade with *louns*, on good security, at a low rate of interest, would be advisable; it would make the money at once reproductive and permanent. Even lending out implements on such terms as ultimately to enable the borrower to become a purchaser and proprietor, would be productive of much good. I find that the rate at which a weaver hires a loom at present, is so exorbitant as to absorb the profits of his exertions. To-morrow I set out for Galway, which will be the termination of my prescribed route. The country looks well, the corn harvest is abundant, and the weather pleasant.

Galway, 21st September.

I beg leave to report to you my return to this place, having completed the circuit allotted to me. I know not that I can add any thing of importance to the communications which from time to time I have had the honour of submitting to your consideration.

Attempts have been made to throw discredit on the affecting relations of wretchedness sent forth from this country, and to impress the mind of a stranger with the conviction that the *distress* was not *beyond* the quota annually borne

by the peasantry. The proofs are before you, and I think it will be readily admitted, that the sufferings of *this year* have been peculiarly severe. The preceding crop of potatoes was scanty, and the small store laid by, the *earth*, saturated by continual rains, failed to preserve. *Grain*, had they possessed the means of purchasing it, might have been procured, but the resources of the country from various causes were exhausted, and consequently *employment*, the means which the population in general depend on for their support, could not be obtained.

I have endeavoured to describe the remedial measures applied, and the exertions of many exalted and benevolent characters, who not only gave their personal assistance, but made considerable sacrifices of their property in the cause of charity.

Whether it is within the scope of human foresight, to prevent the recurrence of so *extensive a calamity*, is beyond my province to enquire; but I may be allowed to remark, that if the wise and the powerful will conscientiously and zealously unite, much may be done to ameliorate the condition of Ireland, in the present generation, and foundations laid for future improvement.

It only remains for me to testify, that as the agent of your benevolent body, my treatment in this island has been liberal and gratifying; the nobility and gentry have received me with cordial hospitality, the poor with expressions of the warmest gratitude; for their future welfare and prosperity I am anxiously interested, and should the opportunity occur in which my humble endeavours might be made available, they will ever find me their devoted servant.

FROM MR. WARMINGTON.

Kilrush, 28th July, 1822.

Galway is the scene of great wretchedness; the population of the town and county of the town amounts to 50,000 souls, and few of them are not objects of pity; to add to their own numbers, hundreds of still more destitute creatures have been flocking in from the neighbouring district of Connemara. Within a few days of our arrival, 900 or 1000 of them were shipped back again to their own country.

I have seen a specimen of them—I am told not an exaggerated one; and I conceive that it is not in the power of language to describe their death-like horrid appearance, and with such clothing as the meanest beggar in England would scarcely wear. I have been conducted to the cabins of the poor, and have witnessed scenes of the most affecting nature, an account of some cases of which are noted in my journal. Yet, Sir, amidst all this misery, the aspect of things is so far changed from that of six weeks back, that neither the poor, nor their protectors, are at all apprehensive that any can pine away for want of food: and from observation and report, I firmly believe, that your Committee have no reason to fear, that any individual can now die from starvation.

I visited the Fever Hospital at Galway, which is under the judicious management of Dr. Whistler. Fever may be said to be prevalent there, upwards of one hundred cases existing in the hospital, and many others in various parts of the town, for which room cannot be obtained: happily, the character of the fever is not highly contagious, and it generally yields to the treatment it meets. The building has only 45 or 50 beds in it, but five tents have been raised in the yard, and accommodation has been thus afforded to the numbers mentioned.

Cork, 31st July.

Two vessels have arrived at Kilrush, containing rice, biscuit, and meal. All your consignments there, under the direction of Major Warburton and the Central Committee, have a most diffusive distribution over the whole county, each Barony receiving its due quantity in proportion to its population and degree of want. The Barony of Moyarta is the only one I have visited; it contains a large and extremely poor population, but your bountiful supplies have enabled their Committee to employ and feed all who have no other means of living, and notwithstanding the great degree of want which has prevailed there, I cannot ascertain that any individual has died of starvation.

I have had an opportunity of seeing the Rev. Mr. Duggan, whose activity and usefulness are deserving the high opinion the Committee already entertain; from your bounty he employs an immense number of individuals; last week he relieved 2519 heads of families, at least 12,000 persons. Gratuitous aid is afforded on the most limited scale possible, not so much with a view to their funds, as to preserve the poor from being reconciled to a state of mendicity, yet the aged and infirm are not neglected. The people themselves say, that had it not been for the benevolence of the London Committee, numbers must have perished: this is not merely said, but I believe it to be really felt. It may perhaps not be impertinent in me to relate a circumstance which occurred last Sunday, and although trifling in itself, it may serve to shew that your bounty is not received with thankless hearts.

The Rev. Mr. Corbett, the parish priest of Kilrush, mentioned from the altar how great a debt of gratitude his hearers (who are numerous) owed to the English for their great goodness in this time of need; they were fully sensible of it, and so deeply did they feel its truth, that none present could refrain from shedding tears. It would, I am sure, be highly gratifying to every humane heart to witness the strong feelings of gratitude which are every where evinced. I consider, Sir, that I should be deficient in my duty, did I not state that I am receiving, as an agent of your Committee, the honours and the blessings of the rich and the poor; and my only reason of regret is, that all who have been so ready to bestow their money and their time in this great cause, should be unable to see the benefit they are conferring, and the gratitude with which it is received.

The want of clothing will be severely felt as the season advances; in ordinary times the people are miserably clad, but at this time the poor are destitute of every article which could be converted into money.

The immediate cause of distress in this quarter appears to arise from the peculiar wetness of the last season, which not only destroyed their potatoes, but prevented the cutting and sale of their turf, by which considerable numbers are commonly employed and supported; this calamity, added to the general poverty and want of employment through the country, was more than sufficient to leave them in a state of the greatest destitution.

Cork, August 2.

The Central Committee have laid it down as a principle, that a representative shall be at their meetings from every parish seeking relief of them, who must furnish a return of the gross population, as well as the number of families in actual distress, in such parish. Their ratio of distribution is two shillings per week for each distressed family, supposing five to be the average number, and for this the Committee are entitled to the labour of one person.

In the judgment of this Committee, a greater allowance would place the poor in a better condition than they are in ordinary years; and besides, it is imagined, that it would have a tendency to encourage a mendicant feeling, and even induce them to rejoice in seasons of scarcity, did they not feel its privations.

Yesterday one hundred and seven parishes¹ received assistances of various amounts, according to the scale here mentioned, amounting in the whole to upwards of £4000; and it is intended that aid to an equal extent should be afforded for another fortnight, in order to preserve the potatoe crops from premature destruction. In many places the new potatoes are commenced upon, but this is not general. In their present unripe state, they are considered highly prejudicial to the health as an exclusive article of food.

I beg to enclose a return, which will shew upon what system the County Committee make their grants; they consider that £7000 will be required to carry them through the season.

Myross, 6th August.

On the 2d instant I had the honour of writing to the Committee from Cork; since that time we have visited every place to which your supplies have been sent between Cork and this: we are unable, from particular circumstances, to furnish a report to-day of what has fallen under our observation; but we are anxious to state that we believe the whole line of coast in the county of Cork, is amply supplied with means, and we therefore beg to suggest, that it is not expedient to send any more money there.

We expect to be at Skibbereen to night, from whence we shall have an opportunity of making a report.

Castle Townsend, 7th August.

At Clonakilty, the Local Committee have, with the means placed in their hands by your Committee, employed their numerous poor in repairing and making roads of public utility. Gratuitous relief has been confined within as narrow limits as possible, but never denied to the aged, the infirm, and the widow. The cargoes which have been directed there have had a very extensive distribution, without parochial or party limits, and the supply which is just arrived from Cork, together with the funds in hand, will be sufficient to meet the urgent wants of the poor until their potatoe gardens can with prudence be resorted to. There exist but few cases of fever, and generally speaking the people are remarkably healthy. The poor are very deficient in every species of clothing, what little they do possess is of a miserable description, and your kind aid to them in this respect cannot but be of infinite service. We have visited various villages in the neighbourhood, all of which partake largely of the general distress. There is one which is situated on a mountain in the parish of Ardfield; it is most thickly inhabited, and chiefly by the poorest of the poor; there is but one gentleman who lives near, and the aid which the Committee have lately sent to him was much needed, and will, we doubt not, be judiciously applied.

From Clonakilty we were conveyed by Lord Carbery to Castle Freke, where we were honoured with the kindest

attentions. His Lordship accompanied us to Ross, at which place we met their Local Committee. The gross population of Ross is over 8000 souls, and 3322 are now receiving relief by employment. Their funds are sufficient to carry them through another fortnight, when the harvest work will commence, and the peasant will trust to his own resources. Government works are struck out, and employment will thus be given to numbers. We have the gratification to state, that fever, and indeed illness of any kind, exists in a less degree in this part of the country, than in ordinary years.

In the parishes of Myross, Kilmacabey, and Killaugh-nabey, from 700 to 1400 heads of families have been supported; their funds are sufficient to employ and to feed the necessitous until other means of sustenance are within reach.

So averse are the gentry generally to gratuitous relief, that they do not approve of giving a man any article of clothing, without a return of labour; but they are willing, nevertheless, that clothing should be given to women and children. Bed clothes are most desirable, and loose coats and cloaks. In many instances which have come under our own observation, an old ragged cloak, which is the chief article of covering for a poor woman during the day time, is the *only one* she has to spread over herself and family during the night.

Bantry, 10th August.

The poverty which exists in the parish of Castlehaven is as striking as any which has come under our observation; but large grants have been made from your Committee, as well as from that of the county, and although the several gentlemen of the parish do not act together, yet we are happy to state our conviction, that the poor are not the sufferers in consequence; on the contrary, all parties are exerting themselves to the utmost to afford relief as extensively as possible. Mr. John James Troy has had the management of the cargoes which have been directed to this quarter, and by his most judicious arrangements, they have been distributed not only widely, but to the most necessitous. We were present at the distribution of meal, and saw groups of half naked ragged creatures waiting to be served; their con-

dition with regard to clothing is miserable indeed. With the money which your Committee sent here, labour has been applied in the making and repairing the public roads, which are of great general service, but to no one more than to the peasant. Government are about to carry on works which will give employment to many. The poor are in a very healthy state, but few instances of fever existing, and those being of a mild character. The Gentlemen of Castlehaven distinctly state, that they do not feel themselves justified in applying to your Committee for further sums.

We have been present at a meeting of the Skibbereen Committee: it appears that much distress has prevailed there, but your grants have been as liberal as their wants were extensive: 1400 heads of families are receiving relief, and all who are capable of working are employed. The system of demanding labour for money was not until lately adopted, consequently there is less improvement in the roads and lanes leading to the cabins, than is to be met with elsewhere, but this Committee have very wisely directed two hundred men to cut turf for winter store, and at the expense of their funds. We are informed, that in this neighbourhood the potatoe crops have in many instances been prematurely dug, but from our own observation we are not justified in stating that this evil is very extensive. In the adjacent village of Abbeystowry, we have reason to believe that two or three persons, in the early part of the season, actually died of starvation; this is the first instance in the course of our enquiry in the County of Cork, that any proof has been offered of such a calamity having taken place. The health of the people is good.

In the parish of Baltimore, 345 heads of families, making in the aggregate more than 1700 individuals, have been relieved, and labour has been demanded where there was ability; of the number mentioned, 98 families received gratuitous relief.

At Skull (a place we visited with much interest, knowing it to have suffered perhaps to a greater extent than any in the county), we are happy to state, that notwithstanding want prevailed to such an alarming degree, yet by the bountiful supplies of your Committee, assistance has been afforded to all who are destitute. The population of the parish is 15,000, and nearly 10,000 of whom have been supported by charity for the last ten weeks. The money and provisions which are still in Mr. Jagoe's hands, will be sufficient to supply the poor until the harvest commences, and their

own potatoes are fit for food. The price of potatoes at market is four-pence for 23 lb. A general state of good health prevails.

The Islands of Cape Clear, Sherkin, Iunisbeg, and others, are not neglected, they are under the care of the Committees on the main land.

Kenmare, County of Kerry, 13th August.

Knowing it to be our duty to collect every species of information, we have associated with various classes of the community, and have heard the opinions of all parties. The immediate cause of the extraordinary distress which has prevailed this season, seems to arise from the failure of the last potatoe crops. For some years past the poor have had great difficulty in struggling through the year; their condition is always so bad, that even a small addition to their usual state of distress is sufficient to expose them to disease and death. All parties who have chosen to investigate and judge on the state of the south-western part of Ireland, concur in the opinion, that had not assistance been afforded, thousands must have perished. We are well aware that in England such an opinion is considered by many unfounded; but after minute enquiry, and deliberate reflection, now, when the danger is passed, we have no hesitation in saying that, without assistance this awful calamity must have occurred. We can easily imagine, that a traveler passing through the country, in the line of the post roads, would be led to suppose that the accounts which have been made public are exaggerated; but let him visit the abodes of the poor who live in mountainous districts, remote from towns; let him calculate their means of subsistence, and examine their whole domestic arrangements, and he would probably form a different conclusion.

We think it right to mention, without attributing motives, that *all* parties do not perfectly coincide in their accounts as to the degree of distress with which their country has been this season so alarmingly afflicted. Some accounts are in our opinion over-rated, and others are under-rated. The middle ranks of society, from their more constant observation of the poor, we consider commonly give a correct picture; but the universal complaint of all classes is, in general terms, that they have no capital, no trade, no employment, no resident gentry. The land is in general let

and underlet, before the poor man can occupy, and there are frequently three, four, or more persons between the proprietor and occupier of the soil. The population is immense; there are but few manufactories, and the produce of land is so depressed that there is no remunerating price for agricultural labour.

There is in every part of the County of Cork which we have visited, some trade in coarse linen yarn; but for want of capital it is but limited, yet as it is, it gives employment to many thousands. But numbers of the industrious poor are not supplied with spinning wheels, and we beg leave to suggest that a sum of money expended in the purchase of wheels and reels, for distribution amongst those who are unable to purchase, would be of incalculable benefit; with a wheel a woman can earn from twelve to eighteen-pence per week; but it has the still more important effect of inculcating habits of industry: wherever this little domestic machine is at work, it seldom fails to produce a degree of comfort; and it is certainly worthy of remark, that among the numerous applicants for relief from the charitable fund of Clonakilty, *not a single weaver was to be met with.*

We make a point of visiting the cabins of the poor in every part of the country through which we pass, and as far as we have gone (with some few exceptions), one character marks the whole of them,—they are indeed forlorn habitations, deficient in every thing to which we in England attach the idea of comfort. A scanty supply of straw or dried weeds forms the bed, and they have scarcely any bed clothes but the rags they wear in the day. The whole family, frequently to the number of five or six, sleep in one bed; they appear to have scarcely any idea of cleanliness; their dirt and filth arising in a great measure, we conceive, from their extreme poverty, which leaves them little care beyond that of obtaining food. Many families would be able to manufacture their own garments, if they had the raw materials.

We have the pleasure to state, that in every part of the County of Cork which we have visited, the wish of the London Committee has been anticipated with regard to the cutting of turf. It is the practice of the Local Committees to suffer and encourage the men to cut and save their turf for the winter; and they have not in general withheld the usual wages when engaged in this business. They have also given every reasonable opportunity to them to attend to their potatoe gardens, which are for the most part in a flourishing state; but we have reason to fear that, owing to

the distress of the times, there is an unusually large number of persons who do not possess the luxury of a small garden, who have possessed one in former years.

At Bantry there is much poverty; the population of the parish is 16,000, and of these 6,800 are receiving relief. Your supplies have been very large; but from what we can collect, they have been much wanted. Messrs. Morgan & Patrick Connell are indefatigable: they have still a balance in their hands, and it is not their intention to make any further claim upon your bounty.

It is our duty to mention that we are receiving great attentions from the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the county. Lord Bantry, Lord Carbery, Lord Kingston, and others, have shewn us great politeness. It is now generally known among the poor people that agents from their benefactors are in Ireland; and whenever we arrive in a town, they assemble in hundreds to testify their gratitude.

Killarney, 16th August.

In reference to the enquiry of the Committee respecting loans of money to inferior tradesmen and others, we beg to state, that in considerable towns this plan might be adopted with the best effect. At Cork, where the population is great, it is in high repute; and at Killarney several gentlemen have pointed out its importance. One principal object of the Committee, we conceive, is to discover some means by which the funds remaining in their hands may be of permanent benefit to the poor. The subject has occupied our serious attention, and we have availed ourselves of the opinions and advice of some of the best informed men whom we have had the honour to meet. The subject is acknowledged to be one of great difficulty; the most feasible plan, however, that we can suggest is, that of encouraging the domestic manufacture of coarse linen and frieze, by placing a sum in the hands of Baronial Committees to be applied for this specific purpose; it would comprise the purchasing of spinning wheels and utensils, the sale at reduced prices, or gift of flax and wool, &c. &c. The great population, and the minute subdivision of lands, compel the honest cottier tenant to sell his best produce to pay his rent and tithes, leaving for the supply of his family nothing but potatoes;—this crop is very precarious, and whenever a partial failure

occurs, a season of much distress commonly ensues; but we consider the evil would, in some measure, be removed by the plan here suggested; it would employ that part of a family who are now idlers, and by that means enable them to obtain some comforts which are at present not within their reach.

Cahirsiveen, 22d August.

I have been through Dunkerron and Iveragh districts, in the county of Kerry, which I am aware have been considered by the Committee to be in the most distressed state; there can be little doubt that their distress has been quite as great as was represented. The county is very mountainous, thickly inhabited, but there are scarcely any resident gentlemen; the few who do reside upon their property have exerted themselves to the utmost. But the season of distress is passed; the harvest is commenced, and is remarkably abundant; the poor man who possesses a potatoe garden has an unusually good crop; the labourer just at this time, is able, in most cases, to get employment in the roads and other works, which government are about to carry on, and the beggar will have the same facility of subsisting as heretofore upon the bounty of his scarcely richer neighbour.

As several local Committees have considerable balances in hand, larger indeed than it will be desirable or necessary to expend in the purchase of food, (there being the same reason to feed the people for six months to come, as there will be for feeding them after a few more days), these Committees are anxious to know in what manner you may be pleased to order their surplus funds to be expended; they, of course, are desirous of giving the poor some means of employment. The encouragement of the coarse linen and woollen manufacture is the only plan suggested, and the furnishing of spinning wheels and creating a market, are said to be the best means of attaining the object.

At Kenmare the local Committee have the charge of six very extensive parishes, over which your supplies of money and provisions have been extended. They have a population of upwards of 25,000 souls, a very large proportion of whom have been relieved. There is no manufacture, a general want of employment prevails, particularly among the

women. Spinning wheels for employment, and bed cloths for covering, are earnestly asked for.

At Killarney the Committee have a considerable supply of meal on hand as well as money; their balance is nearly £700. The population of Killarney and Aghadoe (which in the charitable distribution are united) is 14,660; of this, upwards of 1500 heads of families have been relieved. There has been a less degree of fever and illness than in ordinary years. The local Committee are anxious to appropriate part of their funds in establishing a market for linen, and in encouraging the manufacture of that article, but they are waiting the approval of your Committee. The local subscriptions of this place amounted to nearly £1100.

Schools for education, and spinning wheels for employment, are much wanted. The Lady of Sir John Godfrey has established a school on a very liberal basis, in which the children of both Catholics and Protestants are taught to read and to work: much good is being done.

*Newcastle, County of Limerick,
30th August.*

The Barony of Iveragh contains a population of 18,000, nearly the whole of whom have been relieved, either by purchasing food at reduced prices, by labour, or, when necessity demanded it, by gratuitous assistance. The funds of the local Committee are abundant. I have been a circle of several miles over the mountains, and have passed through the island of Valentia. Good crops of potatoes are to be seen every where, and the people in these remote districts have certainly not suffered from neglect; your bounty has reached the most unfrequented wilds of Ireland.

The Barony of Corkagwinny, of which Dingle is the capital, contains a population of 33,000 souls, 18,000 of whom have received charitable relief. Dingle has been celebrated for its manufacture of linen, but in consequence of various frauds and inattentions with regard to the manufacture of the article in more prosperous times, it has unfortunately lost its good name, and the people are now feeling the sad effects of their own impolicy; yet, however, there is a very considerable quantity of flax grown in the neighbourhood, and great numbers of persons are still employed. It is reported, that great distress prevailed here at the beginning of the

season, but the general appearance of the people is certainly better than others, in most parts of Kerry.

The population of Tralee is 7500, of whom 1200 families have been relieved, principally gratuitously, by the local Committee; labour has been demanded but in a limited manner, yet what work has been done is of a very useful kind, that of improving the roads and lanes leading to the cottages of the poor. The central Committee were accustomed to meet at this town; the whole of their funds have been divided according to the census, over the entire county.

Thus far in our tour we have met with a numerous, poor, and unemployed people; want of employment is admitted by all to be the cause of the misery they struggle with. To the means of employment we have therefore directed our particular enquiry; numerous are the modes proposed, but a distinct plan of effecting the object has been rarely submitted to us. The subject is I conceive so important, that much patient enquiry will be most desirable before any plan be entered upon. The co-operation of the gentry of this county must be relied on.

With regard to the county of Kerry, the gentry are very thinly scattered over the country, so large a portion belonging to absentees.

Limerick, 6th September.

I have now passed through a considerable part of the province of Munster, and have visited those places in which want existed in the greatest degree, but happily the state of things is changed; there is now plenty of provisions in the country, the harvest has been remarkably abundant, and I believe there to be no individual, however poor, but is able to get food to support life. How consoling, must it be to every feeling mind to know, that those fellow creatures, who in thousands, but a few weeks back, were on the brink of starvation, are, by the exertions and bounty of the benevolent, rescued from the awful visitation which awaited them; perhaps even the calamity which was so much dreaded, may prove the greatest blessing the country has ever felt; it has certainly roused and directed a spirit of enquiry towards this long neglected peasantry, whose condition is, I am convinced, but little known in England. It has softened, if not changed, those feelings of fear, distrust, and jealousy,

with which Ireland has viewed our own country, and it may probably tend to conciliate their disturbed and harassed minds, beyond any measure which could have been adopted by the legislature.

It is admitted on all hands, that to give the poor employment, is the first and most important step towards improving their habits; they have been charged with being naturally indolent, but from observation, I am led to believe, this character does not belong to them: it is more from a deficiency in the means of being industrious, than in the will. The encouragement of the linen manufacture is undoubtedly practicable, and is a measure likely to produce important benefits; it will employ an immense number of hands, and has too the advantage of being a favourite occupation of the poor, and that which they already understand.

*From Mr. James Brearly (Agent), dated Galway,
25th July, 1822.*

Thousands of poor creatures are walking about the streets with scarcely any covering on them; and I have frequently found in one small cabin from fifteen to twenty persons, of all ages, and many cases of fever.

His Grace of Tuam took us to see the poor supplied with their daily provisions, which I saw given to more than 3000 persons, men, women, and children. I cannot describe the misery of these poor creatures, many of whom were nearly naked. His Grace informed me, that more than 1000 were sent back from Galway in boats to Connamara. He supplied each with one week's food.

I found two orphan girls, the one twelve and the other fourteen years of age, one of them ill of the fever; they had been lying among the ruins of an old house for some days; for in cases of fever no one will admit them into their houses. Some boys had that day built for them a small hut of turf, in a bog by the road side. I procured a light and crept in by a hole, and found them lying on a little straw, and barely covered with only an old cloak and the day rags of their own. I placed them under the care of the Rev. Mr. Martyn, P. P. and gave him some money for their immediate relief, and for the relief of the sick in this neighbourhood.

At Ballynahinch, I visited several cabins, and gave temporary relief to some peculiar objects of charity. The in-

habitants are in a most dreadful state for want of clothing : in many instances the children are naked. They partake of the bounty of your Committee, for which they seem very thankful. The roads here are dreadful ; the cabins poor, many of them not having any furniture, not even a vessel to cook their meal in, and for beds, a heap of fern, in the corner of the cabin : one old blanket in some of them serves as bed clothes for the whole family. In the places where the land is cultivated, I am happy to see the crops looking very well ; a great number of acres are planted from seed sent by your Committee. At the seat of Thomas Martin, Esq. I found men, women, and children, receiving meal, it being a dépôt for food. Mrs. Martin has established a school, and I was informed, that on the preceding Sunday it contained upwards of one hundred and seventy children.

I found in the north west of Connamara very great distress, the inhabitants almost naked, and misery depicted in their haggard features. In the villages of Rassadills, Aucrusby, and Ganogues, many have perished through hunger. I am happy to inform the Committee, that his Grace the Archbishop had sent a medical man to this district, otherwise the most serious consequences must have followed. This measure I hope will check the progress of the fever, which is still raging. Blanketing, bedding, clothes, and cooking utensils, are very much wanted here, for they have sold every thing to purchase food : in one instance I saw a family eating their oatmeal dry.

In the Islands of Boffin and Shark, I found the poor much better off than those I had seen in the half parish of Ballinakill ; a very few cases of fever ; the inhabitants were tolerably healthy, and were recovering fast from their late distress : their crops look very promising, but clothing and blanketing are very much wanted. I gave some relief to several poor old men and women. The inhabitants of these islands expressed themselves in the most feeling manner for the timely assistance sent them by the generous people of England, without which they must have perished. Inisturck and Clare Islands I found healthy, there being only about twelve cases of dysentery, and they had medical assistance near them. Their crops were also very promising, and the inhabitants in a better state than I expected to find them. The people generally expressed warm gratitude for the assistance sent to them by your Committee.

*Carrick on Shannon, County of Leitrim,
2d September.*

This day I had the honour of meeting the Central Committee of the county of Leitrim, as per appointment; I looked over their accounts and found them very regular; these I will transmit to you as soon as duplicates can be made. The Treasurer's account I will forward likewise. I cannot but express my approbation of the business-like manner in which the affairs of this Committee have been conducted. Their balance on hand amounted to the sum of £267. 5s.; part of that sum has since been appropriated to the purchase of blankets, to be given to those who are afflicted with fever.

Ennis, County of Clare, 1st October.

I must beg leave to state, that in this county there is only one licensed pawn-broker; that in the town of Ennis, the pledges of the remaining part of the county are in the hands of private individuals, for which they will demand exorbitant interest; for in passing through the remote parts of the county, I discovered that these articles were pledged to their neighbours, one among the other, for which they demand an interest at the rate of 2d per fortnight for an article pledged for tenpence.

Extract from the Report of Mr. George Waddington.

September 12, 1822.

Since my arrival in this unfortunate country, I have diligently investigated its circumstances, and have now a tolerable idea of its condition. That incidental distress arising from a failure of crops has been relieved is certain, but that misery and wretchedness still prevail and must continue, if effective means are not adopted to ameliorate the condition of the poor, is equally certain. The benevolence of England and the prompt exertions of the London Committee have saved thousands; and if so much has been done by temporary expedients, how much may be effected when the

people of England shall have determined to adopt means of relief of a more permanent nature. Many of the evils which afflict this country are only to be removed by a patient perseverance of years; but much good may be immediately effected, and a great amelioration of circumstances obtained for the poor.

It seemed to be the opinion of the people of Dublin and Cork, that the report of distress in Ireland was greatly exaggerated, and that little more existed than usual. I took considerable pains to know on what ground this opinion was formed, and I did not find one individual who had come to this conclusion after a minute investigation of the circumstances of the more remote districts, where unprecedented distress did really and awfully exist.

It is due to the Local Committees to state, they have discharged their duty in a satisfactory manner. Their accounts are precise and correct, and their mode of distribution has been impartial and judicious. The labour required for relief has been directed to works of public utility, and will be of lasting advantage to the country. The streets of some of the towns have been greatly improved, and many nuisances removed which were very offensive and pernicious to health.

The local subscriptions have been in proportion to the means of the inhabitants, and very liberal, and many Ladies and Gentlemen have devoted nearly the whole of their time to the public service during the period of distress. The management of the Local Committees has excited my admiration. Instances of improper distribution are but few, and it is satisfactory to state, that British charity has in general had an impartial and just distribution. It is also proper to state, that the benevolent efforts of England have been handsomely seconded by the more opulent part of the community in Ireland who reside in the distressed districts.

Respecting the distress of the present year, (which has been the subject of much doubt), I am fully persuaded that it has been of a very peculiar kind, and has far exceeded what has ever been experienced in the worst of times before. That individual must needs be distressed, who has no property or provision of his own, who has no employment or means of earning his bread, who has no parochial aid to flee to, and whose friends are so exhausted by the peculiar circumstances of the times, that they are as destitute as himself.

The liberal supplies of money and provision afforded to

Ireland, and the prompt manner in which they were despatched, have excited the highest admiration and gratitude; but even with these means the crowded famishing population of those districts could only receive as much relief, in some instances, as would just prolong existence. In many instances not more than half a pint of meal could be allowed for each individual. In some of the mountainous districts of Kerry, and on the banks of the Shannon, and in the counties of Clare and Galway, the distress must have been equally dreadful, if timely aid had not been sent. When the cargoes of provisions from England reached the ports, the shores were lined with half starved and half naked sufferers, some of whom had not tasted food for upwards of forty hours, and a few hours delay must have been attended with most fatal consequences. In many instances potatoe sets were dug up after they were planted to satiate the cravings of hunger, and many of the growing crops were dug up in a premature state.

On my route through the country, I have seen many thousands of men labouring upon the public roads for 5d. and 6d. per day, or the same value of oatmeal, and out of these earnings, a family of seven or eight persons had to be maintained. When the works first commenced, many of the poor men were so weak that they could not bear to labour.

In the town of Listowel, a vast concourse of people from the country assembled daily, to receive a pint of boiled oatmeal and water for each individual, and this had to be carried for several miles. During my stay in this neighbourhood, their distress was considerably augmented by an inundation. Four rivers had overflowed their banks, and destroyed vast quantities of corn and potatoe crops; by this circumstance, many of the farmers will be entirely ruined: we calculated more than Six hundred pounds damage in one parish, and the banks of the river were inundated for more than sixteen miles along its course, and taking an extent of more than one mile in breadth in some parts.

The wretched cabins of the poor, throughout the distressed districts, are the most miserable hovels that ever were tenanted by human beings. I have visited many hundreds of these wretched abodes;—they generally consist of one room, and in some instances, contain twelve, fourteen, and sixteen persons; and sometimes two or three families are all huddled together in one promiscuous group. Many of the cabins are without chimney or windows; some of the entrances are so

low that a person must go in doublefold; the door frequently consists of a stone slab, and in very many of the cabins not a single article of furniture is to be found. The inmates frequently take up their lodging on the floor, over which is scattered a few handfuls of filthy straw, or a few weeds, and sometimes only a little sand from the sea shore. In many cases they are totally destitute of bedding, and their dress consists of a few dirty rags, overrun with vermin. In these abodes of misery, the women and children, and frequently the men, spend day after day in indolence and want, and a life of wretchedness is dragged on in the most forlorn and deplorable manner, and human beings, possessed of the finest natural powers, are sunk into the most degraded state of barbarism.

That peculiar distress arising from the failure of the potato crops, has been relieved by British benevolence, or at least as far as it was practicable, is most certain; and correspondent feelings of gratitude have been excited among all ranks of society. To Britain, the rich and the poor feel themselves indebted; for if the ravages of the famine had proceeded, all ranks must have been involved in the calamity. In every part through which we have travelled, the most unbounded gratitude has been demonstrated, and as the agents of your Committee, we have been treated with the greatest hospitality and kindness. Upon leaving England, many friends expressed their apprehensions for our safety, but even in the most disturbed districts I never have had any cause for alarm. I have travelled through some of the wildest districts in Ireland, without any additional means of defence, with sums of money in my possession, and with this circumstance generally known; and if there had been any intention, I might have been seized, and my property or life taken, in the most secret manner;—and yet over mountains, plains and glens I have pursued my way, and never met with one single interruption or accident. Those who represent the Irish Peasantry as naturally ferocious, know little of their character. No race of men are more kind and generous than the Irish mountaineers, and the peasantry in general. The law of kindness is peculiarly adapted to the genius of this people.

Such evils as I have stated are common in Ireland, but the effects are not so immediately felt where trade gives employment and the means of subsistence.

Non-resident landlords may perhaps be considered as a primary evil ; it is a serious thing to take several millions of rent annually out of the country. But the taking away rents is not all ; it is the system of jobbing and oppression that is created by the absence of land proprietors, that is such an intolerable affliction.

This evil, however, will be reduced. Landlords must either return, or suffer a great diminution of income ; perhaps it is not too much to say, that one half of the rents of the present year cannot be paid, and in many instances, the proprietors will lose all. Many estates will not raise a sufficient sum to pay the interest of mortgages. The cottier tenants hold plots of land, consisting of from half an acre to two or three acres ;—the whole family is dependant upon this for subsistence. In the present depressed state of agricultural produce, the farmers cannot employ the labourers ; consequently, they have no means of raising money but out of their potatoe garden, which will not produce more than the family could consume.

In some places where I have travelled, I have met with a kind-hearted resident landlord, whose life is devoted to the best interest of his country. His improved system of husbandry, his breed of cattle, drains, mountain culture, plantations, quick fences, farm yard, and other domestic arrangements, have excited a spirit of emulation in the neighbourhood, and his exertions altogether have produced the most salutary effect for several miles distant : such zealous philanthropists live in the bosom of their tenantry in the utmost security and comfort.

In Ireland, begging is systematic. As soon as the potatoe crops are planted in Kerry, the men set out for England and other parts, in search of work, and the wife and family to beg round the country. This system of begging is increasing ; for widows and orphans, no other means are provided, and the thousands now out of employment, must necessarily resort to the same practice.

In the south western districts, there is no regular system of trade or means of employment, and a crowded population is comparatively idle. Spinning and weaving are practised more or less, and if the people were encouraged they would excel in those arts. I have seen linen, woollen, and worsted goods, “got up” in a superior way. Their looms and tackle are of the worst description. Although there is a considerable demand for their coarse linens, yet the markets

are so far distant, and the capital so small, that very little business can be carried on.

Where women will work for 2d. per day, and men for 6d. there is no need of "speeded" machinery. The domestic spinning wheel might be so far improved, as to enable a person to spin nine times the present quantity in a given time, and with this advantage, no country in the world could rival the Irish manufacture of coarse linens.

There is one circumstance which I am anxious to impress upon the minds of the Committee, namely, that the circumstances of Ireland have been materially changed for the worse since the recent depression of agricultural produce, and that now it is out of the power of the farmers to afford relief to the peasantry, either by finding employment, or by gratuitous aid. In past years, there has frequently been an extensive failure in the potatoe crops, but at those periods, the more opulent part of the community could give the necessary assistance: now, all ranks are broken down, and the progress of misery cannot be prevented by temporary expedients. In the greater part of the principal towns which I have visited, the tradesmen were nearly all unemployed, and their families in the greatest distress. Tailors, shoe-makers, joiners, masons, &c. &c. were working upon the roads for 5d. and 6d. per day.

At no period of time have the benevolent exertions of England been more noble, more effectual, or more prompt, than during the recent distressing season, which has been experienced in Ireland. These exertions have produced sensations of gratitude and respect for England, in the minds of the Irish people, that were never felt before. The most advantageous opportunity of producing some lasting good is now presented, and it is devoutly to be desired, that this opportunity should be duly improved. There is a facility in the circumstances of the Irish peasantry for bettering their condition, that does not exist in the circumstances of any other people in the world; and it is a matter of surprise to my mind, that century after century should have been permitted to pass, without one efficient effort to ameliorate their condition. Providence has at length directed the attention of Britain to this important subject. Does it not appear, that the set time to favour Ireland is come; and is it not the imperious duty of every man, who has the smallest pretensions to the name of a philanthropist, to direct his most serious attention to this subject? On leaving this country, my

mind is deeply impressed with gratitude for the unbounded kindness and hospitality which has been manifested by this generous warm-hearted people. I am deeply affected with the miseries of the poor unfortunate peasantry, and if the humble efforts of my whole life could be of any avail, I would cheerfully sacrifice the comforts of my native land to serve these unfortunate sufferers.

CHARACTER AND CONDUCT
OF THE POOR
DURING THE LATE DISTRESS.

From John Black, Esq. Sligo, 6th May, 1822.

If any thing could add to the claims of such distress, patience, under it, certainly does ; and I confidently add the latter claim to the former ; for neither our county nor town has been in the most trifling degree disturbed : our distress has been borne with patience and fortitude.

*From J. B. Colthurst, Esq. Dripsey Castle, Cork,
12th May, 1822.*

I feel it my duty to make the earliest application, on behalf of the distressed and suffering objects around me, who are particularly entitled to my care, from their good conduct during the late disturbances in the country ; resisting both threats and temptations to join in them, and continuing to work as long as work was to be had ; they are innocent sufferers from bad times.

*From the Rev. Charles Scymour, Clifden, County of
Galway, 15th May, 1822.*

I beg leave to request, that any benefaction that may be intended for our poor and patient, as well as truly loyal

mountaineers, who have never put the Government to the expense of a military force of any kind to preserve the peace; never have been engaged in any act of rebellion, disaffection, or insurrection; never required a county police to preserve the lives and property of any of the inhabitants; and never were contaminated by Ribbonism, Whiteboyism, or outrage, such as have disgraced other parts of this unfortunate island; should any immediate relief be intended for this part of Ireland, I beg it may be transmitted to the Archbishop of Tuam, who will forward it to me.

Extract from the Petition of the Committee of Arda and Dangan, County of Cork, 17th May, 1822.

The country is reduced to that miserable state, that those farmers, who in former times were able to contribute to the relief of the poor, are scarcely able to support themselves; from their not employing labourers, the greatest distress prevails. Fever has already followed want, and is daily spreading in this district. The death of numbers must ensue, if not quickly relieved.

This dreadful visitation is borne by the suffering inhabitants with the greatest patience; they conduct themselves in the most peaceable manner.

From the Rev. John Preston, Vicarage House, Bruff, County of Limerick, 21st May, 1822.

I feel much pleasure, in making application for the relief of the peasantry of this district, to state, that the conduct of the inhabitants has been uniformly loyal, and, in the late insurrection, unparalleled in atrocity, and unlimited in the extent of its attacks, the conduct of my numerous parishioners has been marked by a most *peaceable demeanour and loyal conduct*. In so much, that without any additional defence to my parochial residence, I have had the good fortune of being unmolested to the present day. As much as in me lay, for the space of 40 years, I have endeavoured to do some good among my neighbours; and I thank my God my efforts have not been in vain, or unrewarded.

From the Rev. James Neligan, Killmactige, County of Mayo, 24th May, 1822.

I beg to remark, that these poor people bear their sufferings with great patience and moderation, and have kept themselves clear of all illegal combinations, and from trespassing on their neighbours property, (except in a few trivial instances,) which ought to recommend them to the consideration of your Committee.

From the Lord Bishop of Killala, County of Mayo, 27th May, 1822.

Our people are well disposed; there is no appearance of a disposition to disturb the public peace; the pressure of the times is borne with good temper, and what we are able to do to alleviate them is thankfully received.

From the Rev. Thomas Walker, Kilmalooda Glebe, County of Cork, 28th May, 1822.

During the late disturbances, which afflicted so great a proportion of this extensive county, we feel sincere satisfaction in bearing the fullest testimony to the quiet and peaceable conduct of the inhabitants of this parish, though situated within a few miles of the scenes of insurrection and lawless depredation.

From the Rev. Robert Morritt, Creagh Glebe, County of Cork, 31st May, 1822.

Since I had the honour of addressing you, in behalf of my starving parishioners, I have been forced, from the number of applicants, to increase the number in employment to one hundred and forty, and this day I was forced to turn away seventy applicants, though I only gave 5d. per day.

The poor fellows said they might as well work as be idle, and absolutely performed their day's work, though they knew, from the inadequacy of my means, I was unable to pay them.

Such a fact speaks volumes. I confidently trust it will plead the cause of my flock more powerfully with you, than any words of mine.

From Messrs. Wood and Blanchfield, Barony of Fassadintin, County of Kilkenny, 5th June, 1822.

That the distress of the poor in this neighbourhood has arrived to a very alarming pitch, the great extent of which has been concealed until within the last fortnight, by the unparalleled patience and exertions of the greater part of the poor people, who never complained of want while they had any thing to dispose of, even to their bed clothes and wearing apparel, by the sale of which they have been enabled to sow their usual quantity of seed potatoes, and to drag out a scanty subsistence until now, with the aid of water-cresses and wild vegetables. There have been many families for the last ten days without any food, except the scanty assistance they could procure from their distressed neighbours, who will in a few days more, be reduced to a similar situation. This distress prevails through part of the parishes of Mayin and Conoley, the entire parish of Kilmacar, and that part of the parish of Mothel westward of the River Dinan. These districts are nearly composed of wet mountain-lands, which, in ordinary years, afford plentiful crops of potatoes and oats, but the heavy rains of last season nearly destroyed all the crops, which is the only cause of the present distress. The people are very quiet and peaceable, as a proof of which we can state of our own knowledge, that there has not been one person convicted of any felonious crime out of any part of these districts for the last twenty years, though there is not one resident gentleman, except your memorialists, or even a policeman, in the entire district.

From John Perkins, Esq, dated Ballisakeary, County of Mayo, 6th June, 1822.

I cannot omit to mention, that under the extreme pressure of want and hunger, the miserable sufferers are perfectly peaceable, and seemingly resigned to their fate ; nor have I heard of one single dishonest act in this parish, either having been committed by night or by day.

From the Rev. Walter Walsh, P. P. Mount Hussey, County of Roscommon, 10th June, 1822.

The explanation of our apparently culpable tardiness in convening a public meeting where so much distress, and more particularly, when the want of seed potatoes so generally prevailed, is short, and extremely creditable to the sufferers. It was not made known until approaching starvation wrung it on Wednesday last from three families mentioned in the resolutions. This silence, under suffering, proceeded from a decency of spirit, now the only remnant of the former prosperity of this parish.

From the Rev. Joseph Verschoyle, Killala, County of Mayo, 15th June, 1822.

Their peaceable habits should recommend them particularly to the notice of their English brethren. No excesses have taken place among them, and even a scarcity, approaching to starvation, has never prompted them to have recourse to plunder or thieving for their own relief. We therefore confidently appeal to your humanity.

*From the Rev. Robert Kirchhoffer, Clondrohid Glebe,
County of Cork, 17th June, 1822.*

Employment is the wish of them all, and the delight exhibited by the poor creatures when they receive their wages is truly gratifying.

*From the Rev. Malachy Duggan, Doncha, near Kilrush,
County of Clare, June 17th, 1822.*

Amidst this aggregate of woe, the patience of the people was most astonishing, and their submission to the laws of the land highly praiseworthy. But thanks for ever to our English Benefactors, the gloom is beginning to dissipate; every day wafts to our ports fresh proofs of their munificence, liberality and humanity.

From the same, dated 21st June, 1822.

I am applying this money towards the repairs of the public roads, and have to inform your Committee, that I have the young and the old at work at present. This mode of applying it I deem to be of great utility to the people, both now and hereafter, and as the public and private roads are in such a ruinous state, when repaired, they will be so many channels of industry open for the people, and will contribute much to their future happiness. Three thousand pounds would not repair them by regular presentment, but the people work now *without measure*, expecting thereby they will meet the approval of the Local Committee, and a continuance of the relief. They will remove mountains, they say, if they get enough to eat.

*From Charles King O'Hara, Esq. Nymphs-field,
County of Sligo, 17th June, 1822.*

But the many cases of deepest distress are only discovered by visiting their houses, where *families, heretofore in affluence*, have been found sinking in silence to the grave, anxious to conceal their wants even from their nearest neighbours. I am happy to observe, that not a single instance has occurred

of riot, theft, or even complaint. The poor people are most grateful for the exertions made in their behalf, and we must ever acknowledge the unparalleled benevolence of the sister kingdom with the deepest sense of gratitude.

From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, 22d June, 1822.

In this as well as other small towns of the Archdiocese, through which I have frequently occasion to pass during this season of distress, I daily meet with tradesmen and housekeepers, whose feelings of independence and the remembrance of better days, will not permit them to ask for any of the provisions distributed at a public store, but whose wants claim serious attention from every benevolent mind.

From A. B. Rowan, Esq. Talce, County of Kerry, 15th July, 1822.

I am happy to say, that this mode of disbursing relief is well received by the people themselves; their constant cry is “*Give us work to enable us to live.*”

The Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Templetenny, County of Tipperary, 20th July, 1822.

That your Memorialists are proud to state, that no act of outrage has been committed, nor has any spirit of insubordination to the laws manifested itself amongst the inhabitants of said parish, though immediately adjoining the disturbed districts in the Counties of Limerick and Cork, and that therefore the distressed inhabitants of said parish and barony are most deserving of protection and relief.

From the Rev. H. Woodward and Local Committee at Fethard, County of Tipperary, 15th July, 1822.

That your Memorialists can bear the most ample testimony to the amazing patience with which the severest distresses are borne by the overwhelming population of this neighbourhood, with the details of which they think it needless to trouble you, but of the wide extent of which they could hardly speak in terms too strong,

At a Meeting of the Gentlemen in the Parish of Ardcrenney, County of Tipperary, 26th July, 1822.

Resolved,—That the industrious and peaceable conduct of the peasantry of this parish, justly entitle them to every assistance this meeting can give or procure for them.

From Dr. Church, Listowel, County of Kerry, 27th July, 1822.

On receiving your letter I set a particular enquiry on foot, which perhaps I should not otherwise have done, and I have stated on the backs of the papers some of the particulars which came to my knowledge. In the course of my enquiry, I found, much to the credit of the persons lending the different small sums, who were all shopkeepers, that they exacted no consideration whatever in return for the loan; and that they inconvenienced themselves, by the diminution of their means, in order to relieve the wants of the poor people. One man said his house was filled with pawned articles. A case of this kind of double distress came to my knowledge a few days before. A poor woman with an infant in her arms came to me in tears: she had scarcely any clothes on, and she was endeavouring to conceal her nakedness. She said she had parted with whatever little clothes she had by degrees, and her cloak, which she prized more than all, and had pledged for 2s 6d, was just selling off by cant; (all our poor women wear a cloak or mantle with a hood to it; they consider it indispensable, and chiefly because however ill clad, it conceals all). I sent for the per-

son with whom it was pledged; a little boy came, and said his father and mother were both lying down, that they kept the cloak as long as they could avoid selling it, but their own distress was so great that they were obliged to do so at last. I went to see, and found the story to be true, and had to provide a coffin for this poor man in a few days after. I sent a physician to see the wife, and desired that she should want for neither medicine or food;—I fear she is irrecoverable too.

At an adjourned Meeting of the principal Inhabitants of Parsonstown, King's County, 30th July, 1822,

The Earl of Rosse in the Chair,

It was unanimously Resolved,—

That notwithstanding considerable distress has prevailed for some months past in this town and neighbourhood, we have forborne to apply for relief to Government in consequence of the superior distress existing in other parts of the kingdom, but having ascertained, within these few days past, that distress has augmented to an alarming extent, exhibiting the miserable spectacle of above one thousand persons in actual want, many of whom from infirmity, and many from want of employment, are unable to support themselves and their families, we are reluctantly obliged to solicit aid for those destitute persons, in order to prevent them from falling victims to famine.

*From Dr. John Church, Listowel, County of Kerry,
1st August, 1822,*

Our poor people are most eager for work; they go thirty, forty, sixty miles off to seek for it, and I know *that* is misery. I know a poor man who has gone sixty miles upon twopence; he bought a quart of oatmeal, had it baked into a cake, which he took in his pocket, with his spade on his shoulder. It afforded him two scanty meals on the road side with water. He shortly after heard of the death of his wife and one of his children, and came back. There are many now who wish to be off, but cannot go for the want of their spades,

which they have pledged. You have carried them through the season of starvation. I wish to heaven we had some means of bringing them home to work.

From the venerable Archdeacon Jebb, dated Abingdon Glebe, Limerick, 10th August, 1822.

Since my return home, I have been taking the first steps for procuring a supply of wheels; and hope to do so through wheelrights resident within this parish. If this can be effected, it will be a serious advantage; not merely as promoting industry in the neighbourhood for which I am naturally most interested, but as producing a salutary effect on the minds of the people, who will be more sensibly impressed by seeing the process go forward under their eyes; and whose gratitude to the English people, and consciousness of the value of a peaceable and loyal conduct, which has drawn down this bounty, will be unspeakably enhanced by this continual sensible impression. I cannot find words to describe the delight of the poor people at the prospect opened to them of procuring the means of cheerful and domestic industry. And it shall be the constant aim of Mr. Forster and myself, to keep alive in them those feelings, which, we trust, may ultimately subside into settled habits of industrious exertion. In many cases, when we have been hitherto pained and grieved at witnessing the recklessness which grows out of the absence of all hope, we already see reason to anticipate both forethought and alacrity, at no distant period.

From the Rev. Michael A. Sullivan, P. P. of Murhur, County of Kerry, 24th August, 1822.

This parish was the first in this kingdom that entered into solemn resolutions before their Altar to keep themselves free from insubordination and immorality, which promise they have since kept inviolate, though they were nearer the contagion than any other part of Kerry, being on the borders of the county of Limerick.

From the Rev. Richard Falkiner, dated Mount Falcon, County of Tipperary, 28th September, 1822.

I solemnly protest there were above twenty families, of from seven to twelve in number in each family, who were destitute of any kind of food or raiment; so much so, that no one in his senses would give one shilling for all the covering they had for night or day, and I believe there never were a set of people who bore their sufferings with greater patience and magnanimity, or with fuller or more grateful hearts acknowledged the bounty of their benefactors. I am commissioned by them frequently, to beg of your honourable Committee to accept their most grateful thanks for your bounty.

From the venerable Archdeacon Jebb, dated Abingdon Glebe, 24th October, 1822.

It is a gratifying circumstance, that after the last two works had been completed, and when the allocated £100 was almost expended, the poor labourers on Connel's and Flannery's hills, requested permission to finish their work without hire, from a sense of gratitude for the relief afforded them, and, as they expressed it, "for the comfortable manner in which they had been paid." The request, of course, could not be complied with: but when the poor fellows understood, that Archdeacon Jebb intended paying the surplus from his own pocket, though they had laboured honestly and diligently throughout, they worked double tides for the last week, to diminish the expense: and the superintendant (a man conversant with road making), declared, he had never seen work so spiritedly executed in the course of his life.

CO-OPERATION OF THE CLERGY.

From the Rev. Francis Fox, Castleterra, County of Cavan, June 8th, 1822.

With regard to the resolution that the Roman Catholic Priest should be associated with me, I beg to observe, that in every thing that concerns the interest of this parish, or the care of our poorer brethren, the Protestant and Roman Catholics follow the example of their several Pastors, and go hand in hand.

From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, July 13th, 1822.

Money could not be put into more honest, more impartial, more humane hands, than those of the Roman Catholic Warden of Galway.

Circular Letter of the Right Rev. Dr. O'Shaughnessy, R. C. Bishop of Killaloe, August 3d, 1822.

You will mention from your altar on Sunday next, that Dr. O'Shaughnessy, R. C. Bishop of Killaloe, requests, that the Pastors of the distressed districts of said diocese, should, at their respective chapels, excite their flocks to unite with the Clergy in expressing their heartfelt and everlasting gratitude, for the unexampled, necessary, and timely relief administered to them through the paternal influence of our

beloved Sovereign, by the kind generosity of the Government, and by the numerous donations of our benefactors in Ireland; but above all, by our truly charitable *Protestant Benefactors* and fellow subjects in England.

This work of mercy originated with our generous and compassionate friends in England, by whose zeal and piety immense sums were poured in on the London Tavern Committee of Management, by whose anxiety for our relief all possible means were adopted,—charity sermons, benefits of balls and theatres;—and having tried all other measures, collections from door to door were resorted to with considerable success.

In the history of the world is there to be found an instance of such benevolent feelings as are now manifested, and by whom?—by the illustrious English Protestants, in favor of the destitute Roman Catholics of Ireland.

As the apprehension of famine must be soon done away by the prospect of an abundant harvest, this same great nation is turning its thoughts towards a supply of night and day covering, for men, women, and children, of our half naked peasantry.

Heavenly God! can those wretched poor people ever forget such kindness? [Here let the congregation kneel down.] Therefore, with our heart and our voice, let us offer our fervent prayers to the throne of the Eternal God, humbly and earnestly beseeching Him, that every spiritual and temporal happiness and prosperity may be the reward of this unheard-of munificence, in favor of the destitute population of our unfortunate country.

*From the Rev. Malachy Duggan, P.P. Donaha,
County of Clare, August 14th, 1822.*

I beg leave to express my feeling of gratitude to our English benefactors, and being a Catholic Priest, augments my gratitude and love to my Protestant Brethren, for their munificent, disinterested, and Christianlike conduct during the severe visitation. The good they have done is incalculable; the evils they have prevented would be indescribable; for which they have, as the only remuneration in our power, our most ardent wishes for their public and private happiness.

*From the Rev. Robert Kirchhoffer, Clondrohid Glebe,
County of Cork, 19th August, 1822.*

I am happy to report to your Committee that the Roman Catholic Priests have united most cordially with me in endeavouring to alleviate the distress of the peasantry. For all the kindness and attention of your Committee, allow me, for myself, to return my sincere thanks.

*From the Rev. S. Murphy, P. P. Kilmeen, County
of Cork, August 27th, 1822.*

The most troublesome share of the business was cheerfully undertaken by the Rev. Mr. Kenny, (Rector of Kilmeen,) as the partition and daily inspection of the work,—the keeping of the accounts,—the paying the labourers in money or meal,—the distribution of soup, &c.; and I cannot conclude, without expressing the happiness I feel in this opportunity of testifying to your Committee my warmest acknowledgments of that Reverend gentleman's meritorious conduct, during the prevalence of the late awful calamity. His anxiety to alleviate the alarming distress of his parish, his indefatigable exertions to procure the means necessary to that effect, his very judicious management of them, (and here I am bound to state that in our frequent conferences on this subject, any suggestion of mine met with the most marked attention on his part,) will, I am convinced, be long remembered with sentiments of the deepest gratitude by every individual in this parish, and by none with a stronger impression than by myself.

*From the Right Rev. Dr. Plunkett, R. C. Bishop of
Elphin, dated Athlone, County of Roscommon, 28th
September, 1822.*

I need only say, that as it is my duty, I hope it will always be my inclination, to do all in my power to promote the comforts and improve the condition of my suffering countrymen without distinction of religion, sect, or party.

From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo, 2d October, 1822.

May I be permitted to observe, that you cannot too rigidly adhere to the system you have so steadily pursued in all your proceedings, viz. that of combining the different religious persuasions and the varied interests of this land, in the distribution of your bounty. This inspires the objects of your charity with implicit confidence in the measures adopted for their advantage, without which they would be utterly inefficient. The labours of your Committee have done more towards breaking down the bulwarks of prejudice, than any plan which has been hitherto adopted. In the establishment of a mutual feeling of friendship among those who differ, we must all rejoice, however decided we may be in attachment to our own views, and in zeal for their promulgation. Enmity, prejudice, bigotry, and persecution towards each other, are elements ill suited to the growth of truth. They originate in ignorance, and tend to perpetuate error. I have the pleasure to assure you, that as far as my knowledge goes, your bounty has been distributed on the same liberal principles as you have acted upon in remitting it. Not a single complaint has reached my ears of a person in distress having had relief denied him on account of his religious views.

At a Meeting of the Trustees for the encouragement of Industry in the County of Sligo, December 11th, 1822,

Resolved,—That the Clergymen of all religious denominations be considered Members of the Committee for the Barony in which they reside.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

AS PER RETURNS

FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES, &c.

	£	s.	d.	
In the County of Clare.....	3382	0	10	
Cork	12,099	15	3	
Galway....	4702	15	2	
Kerry	2396	13	7	
Leitrim....	1016	0	0	
Limerick ..	5096	10	1	
Mayo	3916	5	4	
Roscommon	2514	8	10	
Sligo	2096	15	9	
Tipperary..	3956	0	8	
	<hr/>			41,177 5 6
Sundry Parishes in the				
County of Cavan	205	2	9	
Donegal ...	129	0	0	
Kilkenny ..	270	0	0	
King's County	442	8	8	
Longford ..	872	12	7	
Queen's County	107	0	0	
Waterford..	394	11	1	
Westmeath .	579	8	5	
	<hr/>			3000 3 6
				£44,177 9 0

Extract of a Letter from Luke Shea, Esq. dated Britfield House, Cork, 10th July, 1822.

I assure you I have for my own part gone far beyond my means, for I could not see such misery and keep any thing I could spare by stinting myself; I have parted with hounds I kept, to enable me to give what they should get to the poor. I have hitherto fed 100 persons every day in my yard at my sole expense, with bread and porridge, which I get made every day in one of my out-houses; these are principally persons not able to work, either from illness brought on by want and other causes, and old age. Really I do assure you, that if it was not for the relief I have given, independently of my subscription to the Committee, my neighbourhood would be in a melancholy way, but now I am compelled to shorten the number,—I cannot hold on, and the number of claimants is increasing rapidly, which makes it more wretched.

*From the Rev. W. R. Townsend, Cork,
12th October, 1822.*

It would be perhaps impossible to know the full extent of donations in this county; many private individuals had, before the formation of Committees, supported the poor by getting wheat ground and giving it in small quantities.

From the same, 15th November, 1822.

I yesterday had an interview with Lord Carberry; he had not received my letter relative to subscriptions in Rathberry parish, but now gave me the following particulars; he received no private subscription, though for the entire season he supported upwards of eight hundred people, Lady Carberry and the ladies of his house attending daily to the distribution of food. I yesterday also received a letter from the Rev. John Jagoe, curate of Skull; he says there was no subscription, but that a Lieut. Meggison, R. N. commenced in the month of May to supply sixty of the most distressed families with soup, and that the same person purchased £40 worth of seed potatoes, and served them out to the poorest people, and that he is now making an arrangement to pur-

chase at his own expense a little supply of warm clothing for some miserably poor families. Mr. Jagoe says he also gave out soup on a small scale. When I was lately in that country, I heard every person speak of Mr. Meggison's liberality and personal exertions last summer. If the Committee wish to send any clothing to that country, they can hardly place it in better hands than in those of these gentlemen.

From the Local Committee of Templecrone, County of Donegal, 5th June, 1822.

The resident gentlemen who are in any way able to contribute to their relief do not exceed 10 or 12; many of these, from the extent of their charities, are suffering privations in their own families.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
24th October, 1822.*

I send a parcel of returns of local subscriptions made in this county, during the late summer, as you required: I am aware that several gentlemen largely supplied their own tenantry with provisions, which cannot appear in any returns.

From the Rev. H. R. Dawson, Castlecomer, County of Kilkenny, 19th July, 1822.

Before I left the country, I was obliged to deliver rations of meal to many large families whom I knew would otherwise have been in a state of starvation, and some persons who reside in the parish are now continuing the same practice as far as their limited means will permit. We have hitherto refrained from applying to the Committee, in the hope that our own resources would have supplied our wants, but they are now exhausted.

*From Richard Eaton, Esq. Castlecomer,
1st October, 1822.*

In the beginning of May, a subscription was raised here amounting to £144, the greater part of which the Dowager Lady Ormonde (our excellent and constantly resident landed proprietor) contributed, and was laid out in the purchase of seed potatoes for the poor, to whom they were given on the principle of a charitable loan, the amount to be paid back by instalments of tenpence a week, and thus 190 families were provided with support for the ensuing season; and it is highly creditable to the poor people who were the objects of this loan to state, that their re-payments amount to the sum of £83. 4s. 11d, which, considering the distress that has since prevailed, is more than could have been expected. In this parish however, overwhelmed as it is with a wretchedly poor population, there are multitudes who have neither land to receive seed, nor means to sow it, and who of course were unable to avail themselves of that species of relief. Accordingly, in the month of July, Lady Ormonde opened a kitchen for the delivery of meal and soup, where for five weeks, an average number of 1400 individuals were supplied with comfortable food at her Ladyship's sole expense. Besides this, she employed 50 men of the poorest of such as were able to work, to whom she has given tenpence a day ever since, and I need hardly add, that these poor creatures were employed for mere charity, and are entirely exclusive of her Ladyship's regular establishment of workmen, consisting of not less than 60 more. This relief has, as I have already observed, been confined to the poor of this town and its immediate neighbourhood. In addition to which, I have paid for her Ladyship (to whom I am agent) £202 in different sums for the relief of the poor in a distant part of the country where her Ladyship has another estate, besides £100 as her subscription to the general fund vested in the Dublin Mansion-house Committee. •

*From Col. L'Estrange, King's County,
14th June, 1822.*

I am supporting above an hundred from the parish of Gallen, giving them employment and provisions, which I shall be able to continue until the end of the first week in August, but cannot extend it further than I have done, having so many claimants from my own property.

'From the same, 16th July, 1822.

I beg leave to add, that I am myself giving employment and subsistence to 350 persons, which I cannot continue much longer, as the stock I had laid in, is nearly exhausted; and their whole dependance is upon what I can give them, until the new crop comes in.

From the Rev. J. C. Maude, Kinclty, 20th July, 1822.

I think it necessary to remark, that (although their exertions have not been made known publicly) my parishioners have not been insensible spectators of the misfortunes of their tenantry. Mr. Bernard has advanced, and continues to advance, upwards of £20 per week, in money and corn. Lord Rossmore, Mr. Drought, and others, have also come forward to employ a number of necessitous persons.

*At a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants of Parson's
Town, July 30, 1822,*

Resolved,—That, in addition to the subscriptions for the permanent charitable institutions in this town, we have now raised the sum of £102. 2s. towards relieving the objects requiring immediate assistance; and we are confident that the present subscription would have been much greater, had not the subscribers been now also called upon, previous to the approaching assizes, for subscriptions for our Dispensary and Fever Hospital.

*From Geo. Crawford, Esq. St. Anne's, N. T. Forbes,
County of Longford, 8th October, 1822.*

In addition to the pecuniary subscriptions for the parish of Clongish, I opened a Soup Kitchen at my own private expense, by which 30 poor families around me were principally maintained during the summer; and a similar establishment was supported at the expense of the Earl of Granard, at which from 60 to 80 families were supplied with a good dinner during the distressed period.

*From Mark Bloxham, jun. Esq. Moydow, County of
Longford, 26th June, 1822.*

The local contributions for the poor of Moydow, amount at present to £136, Irish. A poor market is held once each week for the distribution of oatmeal (the only article of provision used), at which those considered able to pay, are permitted to purchase at the rate of 8s. per cwt. in quantities proportioned to numbers in family; those unable to pay, received similarly arranged quantities gratis; those able to pay but in part, pay in the proportion they are able, and receive the remainder gratis. Of the first class, there were 104 families on the list, last market day;—of the second class 58 families;—of the third 22;—making the total on the list at present, 184 families, consisting of 680 individuals. From the limited nature of the fund, the quantity of meal issued each day was necessarily small, never perhaps exceeding 16 cwt., certainly on no occasion amounting to one ton; it is hoped, however, from the late liberality of the Irish Committee, that the ratio to each family will be increased. No person is put on the list without a local inspection of his habitation, &c. and a strict enquiry as to his general circumstances. No employment has been given to the poor from this fund, but the necessity of that is in a great degree obviated, by the liberality of the Rector of the parish, the Rev. H. W. Cobbe, who supplies all the spinners of the parish with flax at his own expense, and is ready to give the yarn spun by them to weavers on their application; persons of those classes are all employed, though at low prices; there has not appeared as yet any necessity for the distribution of seed potatoes. When subscriptions were originally set on

foot, the Roman Catholic Clergyman was consulted, and co-operated; was also invited to attend the meetings of the Local Committee, and was written to yesterday on the receipt of the letter from the Irish Committee, informing him of its purport, and sending a copy of the resolutions they entered into. It may be added, that in the management of the fund it has ever been an object to give as little gratis as possible, and that the general quantity of meal issued was so proportioned to the existing means, that a supply to a similar amount could be issued once each week, till the middle of August next; also, that there has not been any sale at prime cost hitherto, but that it shall be considered at the next meeting of the Local Committee, whether that plan may not be acted upon in some instances, thereby enabling persons to purchase by retail at wholesale price.

From J. E. Strickland, Esq. Tubrahan, County of Mayo, 18th July, 1822.

I have to say, that Mr. Nolan has furnished me with an account on oath of his having expended 7 tons 9 cwt. of meal in the relief of 72 families, and I know that at the present price that must have cost him at least £120. He shewed me the receipts for his different purchases, but I do not speak with accuracy of the sum, because his account is not before me. I know also from the report of the Parish Priest, and of confidential persons in my employ, that he has really supported these 72 families from the commencement of the distress, and attended to their wants with the utmost kindness and humanity.

From E. S. Cooper, Esq. M.P. Mullingar, 8th June, 1822.

I am at present employing persons to the amount of £150 per week, in the county of Sligo and here, which will be continued during the pressure, besides £200 remitted to the Sligo Central Committee in cash, and half as much laid out in seed potatoes, and a weekly sum to the parish of Ballisodare.

From the Rev. H. Woodward, Fethard, County of Tipperary, 22d July.

The Gentlemen of the country have made such exertions, that two of them offered sheep as their subscription, having no money. In short, the most conscientious use and diligent superintendence of any means afforded us, may, I trust I can say, be depended on, and as to the details of suffering and misery amongst the poor, I could fill pages with them.

From the Right Hon. Lord Waterpark, Tubrid, County of Tipperary, 6th October, 1822.

I found a very small room half uncovered, and about eight boys taught in school. I built a school house, containing two rooms of 22 feet long by 18 broad, and furnished it with forms, &c. &c. It cost me £400. I placed a very respectable schoolmaster and mistress there with a salary of £30 a year, and have the pleasure of saying, that we have now 65 boys in the school.

I have taken a considerable quantity of land into my own hands, and have employed a vast many people to cultivate it according to the best English system. The advantage to the people has been great.

From the Earl of Glengall, Cahir, County of Tipperary, 9th October, 1822.

No exertion on my part shall be wanting to promote your benevolent objects, and I beg to be excused for stating, that in my town of Cahir, a charitable association has sat in Committee for thirteen years past, through whose meritorious exertions a Fever Hospital has been erected and supported by private subscription, and a spinning and weaving factory established, which now gives employment to 346 women and children and 26 weavers.

Report from Clonmel, County of Tipperary, 10th May, 1823.

In the spring of 1822, when famine and distress universally prevailed in the Western and more Southern parts of Ireland, there was no want of provisions generally in the town and neighbourhood of Clonmel: the necessaries of life were dear, but they could be procured: it was therefore thought inexpedient, in the earlier part of the season, to draw upon the more wealthy of the public for those resources which might afterwards be wanted to a much greater extent. And though there was a prospect that a share of the English bounty might be bestowed on Clonmel, if there was a proportionate exertion on the part of the inhabitants, yet they did not think it humane, or indeed justifiable, to divert that bounty from those channels where it was essentially necessary to preserve life. No such state of things in Clonmel could be alleged to justify an interference with the more distressed districts. At length, however, it was found, that though provisions were in abundance, there was such a general want of employment in the neighbourhood, that the poor were unable to provide food, even were it considerably cheaper than it was. On this ground, the Right Hon. Colonel Bagwell set on foot a subscription in the month of July 1822, for the sole purpose of expending it in employing the poor on the roads and public avenues, which might be a general benefit to the town. A sum of £509. 3s. 3d. was subscribed and expended in the way above mentioned, affording to the poor, and particularly to those who from age or other causes were not likely to be employed by individuals, a small daily stipend of from 6d. to 10d. each, according to circumstances.

The association for suppressing mendicity, however, was in particular difficulty in consequence of increased demands arising from the want of employment and dearness of provisions. On behalf of this charity, an application was made by Colonel Bagwell to the Central Committee in London, and a sum of £100 British received, which enabled that society to continue its exertions.

In the November following, a Female Association for the town was formed in connection with the British and Irish Ladies Society for improving the condition of the female peasantry, and a sum of about £50 was subscribed. This association has received from the London Committee for the use of the town and barony, four bales of clothing.

In January 1823, in consequence of the severity of the season and the difficulty of procuring fuel by the poor, another subscription was raised of £127. 2s. 9d. and principally laid out in the purchase and distribution of coals. On the 23d of April, an association was formed for the county in connexion with the British and Irish Ladies Society, for the purpose of forming Local Associations through the county. To this association £20 has been lately transmitted by the Central Committee in London for the general purposes of the county.

*From Thomas J. Whitney, Esq. County of Westmeath,
14th July, 1822.*

What I have already done towards their relief is out of my own private fortune. Every morning, for the last month, I have fed from forty to fifty poor persons gratis; and on every Tuesday, I distribute from two to three tons of meal at a reduced price, from £3 to £4 per ton loss.

*From the Rev. Arthur Rolleston, and others, dated
Moate, County of Westmeath, 18th July, 1822.*

The Local Committee entrusted with the management of the fund amounting to £150, subscribed in the town of Moate in the county of Westmeath, and its vicinity, for the relief of the poor in that neighbourhood, report,

That they commenced the 1st June with purchasing upwards of 2000 stones of potatoes, which they had cut for seed and distributed gratuitously to a number of distressed persons, whose gardens were lying waste for want of the means of procuring them.

They distributed a quantity of lime to cleanse and white-wash the cabins, by which means they hope they may have checked the progress of contagion and disease.

That finding a great number of persons in actual need of the necessaries of life, from want of employment, whereby they could procure food, the Committee turned their attention to setting forward some descriptions of work that would

employ the most distressed, and bring back some return for the money so expended. They put upwards of one hundred labourers at the allowance of three quarts of oatmeal per day each, to cut turf (being the only fuel made use of in this part of the country), and which to dry and save fit for use and sale, would also enable them to employ a number of females and children whom they should also relieve; but they fear that when done, they cannot calculate on its bringing in a return of more than one-third of the money so expended, owing, in a great measure, to many of the persons employed being feeble and unable to perform much work from age and bad food.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OF

BRITISH RELIEF.



From Stephen Gallwey, Esq. Killarney, County of Kerry, 14th May, 1822.

The universal impulse of gratitude and admiration, which fills every person's bosom in this town and neighbourhood at the present moment, for the splendid and humane manner in which the meeting held last week in your city has acted, calls forth from Irishmen a debt of gratitude, which they can never repay. If any thing were wanting to place the City of London on the proudest and most exalted station in the world, this noble and unsolicited act has done it.

At a Meeting of the Gentlemen and Clergy of the County of Kerry, convened by the High Sheriff on Wednesday, the 15th of May, 1822.

Resolved,--That we request to be permitted to tender to the London Association, and to the subscribers to their fund, our most respectful thanks for their benevolence to our unfortunate countrymen; and to assure them that a strong impression has been made on the hearts of our peasantry, by so munificent an act of strangers, doing honour to the national character of England, and calculated to cement the best affections and interests of both countries .

*From Dr. Church, Listowel, County of Kerry,
19th May, 1822.*

I hope you will allow an humble individual to take this opportunity, on behalf of his unfortunate poor countrymen, to return most heartfelt thanks to you, Sir, and the other Gentlemen in London, who have thus so humanely averted the impending and otherwise inevitable calamity of a famine, which threatened our poor and distracted country, with all its appalling consequences. It would be in vain to attempt any expression of our feelings on the occasion. Such disinterested and noble generosity in those who are strangers to us, and at such a moment! It must be grateful to the feelings of such men to be assured that their humane efforts, as well as those making by our Government, will save thousands of famishing creatures from the death which otherwise awaited them. Hitherto they have been supported by the exertions of a nearly exhausted gentry;—exertions stretched far beyond the means of those making them, but no longer able to carry them on. We have hitherto heard of but few deaths arising from actual starvation, but a short time more would make it tremendous, had it not been for this timely assistance. The pale and emaciated faces met with in the streets and on the roads, proved the rapid approach of this last step; I have known an instance of a man who for three days had not a morsel to eat, and then stretched exhausted on his bed to die; a trifle saved him, but his recovery was slow. It would be painful to dwell on these instances of misery, and I only mention them to shew how timely the relief has been.

Although no such result was in the contemplation of those humane Gentlemen, yet it must prove satisfactory to you to be informed, that your interposition, at such a moment, is likely to make impressions on our peasantry favourable to the future tranquillity of our country.

*From Daniel Coghlan, Esq. Crookhaven, County of
Cork, 21st May, 1822.*

The humane liberality of the sister kingdom to this unfortunate country, never can be forgotten by any Irish heart, possessing the smallest spark of gratitude.

At a Meeting of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and other Inhabitants of the City and Liberties of Cork, held at the Mansion House, on Thursday, the 21st day of May, 1822,

The Right Worshipful the MAYOR in the Chair,

Resolved,—That we view with unfeigned gratitude the prompt and benevolent exertions in London, and other parts of Great Britain, to alleviate the distress that exists in the southern and western districts of this kingdom. And in this communion of good feeling, we look to an indissoluble union of the two countries; and that his Worship the Mayor do, through the London Committee, make our acknowledgments to the British people.

From Richard Deasy, Esq. Clonakilty, County of Cork, May, 29, 1822.

Our feelings are such that we are totally at a loss to find language sufficiently powerful to give expression to our gratitude. The hearts of the English philanthropists would quicken with satisfaction, could they behold one hundredth part of the effect of their benevolence on the squalid famine-faced human beings here. It is quite delightful to us to reflect, that the union of the two countries will be, by such acts, cemented more completely than it could by any other; and you have accomplished by your splendid exertions in the cause of suffering humanity, what has been so long unattainable, though so much desired,—the making us one people.

*From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo,
1st June, 1822.*

It is vain to attempt describing the emotions which have been excited in the members of our Committee, to whom your letter of May the 29th to Mr. Madden, has been shewn. Without an hour's delay, I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of the £300 British, remitted by you to our Treasurer, from the Irish Relief Committee in London. The gratitude their

unparalleled liberality inspires, will not find utterance in the common formalities of votes of thanks; it will remain till death, an abiding and reigning principle in the hearts of those it has benefited.

*From the Rev. Michael T. Keating, Cahirnarry Glebe,
County of Limerick, 1st June, 1822.*

With the most unfeigned sense of gratitude, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of £100 British, the amount of the benevolent and exceedingly liberal donation granted by your Committee to relieve the distress in the parish of Cahirnarry.

It is quite beyond my power to convey an adequate idea of the feeling evinced by the parishioners on the communication of the intelligence; but a meeting is to be held tomorrow for the purpose of expressing how deeply they are affected by the generous conduct of the British Nation towards this country, at the moment of her difficulty and distress.

*From the Rev. J. M'Namara, P. P. Cahirnarry,
County of Limerick, 3d June, 1822.*

My parishioners do declare how deeply they are impressed by the noble and generous conduct of the British nation towards themselves and this country in general, at the present trying moment; and that when the occasion which has drawn forth such conduct is passed (I trust never to return), still that the feelings produced shall not be forgotten, but that to the last moment of their existence, they will endeavour to shew how sensibly alive they are to the kindness exerted in their favour.

As they are now about to reap the advantage of the peace and tranquillity which prevailed in this parish during the period of the late disturbance, they pledge themselves to uphold the character which they have obtained, and to impress in the strongest manner on the minds of their children, the value of orderly conduct, and obedience to the laws of their country.

*From the Very Rev. Edmund French, R. C. Warden
of Galway, 12th June, 1822.*

I have taken care in the distribution of the labour appointed by the Committee of Galway for the employment of the poor in town and country, to impress on their minds the utmost gratitude for the benevolent supplies which the good English nation have given them. Indeed they are grateful, peaceable, and loyal, midst all their distress: and they repeatedly say in their own language, "what a pity that the great sea is between us and the good people of England, affording relief when we can't shew them our gratitude."

*From the Vicar, Churchwardens, and other Inhabitants
of the Union of Crossmolina, County of Mayo,
16th June, 1822.*

We find it impossible to express to you in adequate terms our gratitude for the relief which has been afforded by the Association for whom you act, to the poor suffering people, our fellow parishioners of the Union of Crossmolina. The communication of the simple fact, that between ten and eleven hundred starving families have been already supplied with a week's provisions, and two hundred families with a moderate portion of seed potatoes, chiefly through the bounty of the London Tavern Committee, will, we are sure, convey a purer delight to their and your benevolent hearts, than any praise we could utter.

*From Dr. Church, Listowel, County of Kerry,
17th June, 1822.*

For this as well as all the other bounteous acts of your countrymen, I beg to tender, in behalf of our poor suffering people, the warmest and most grateful thanks that the heart of man can pour forth. It must be grateful to the minds of such men to hear of the good done by their benevolence and generosity. Thousands must have perished long since, had it not been for the relief thus afforded them; the means of our own gentry having been exhausted, when you so timely took up the cause of charity.

From the Lord Bishop of Limerick, with the Resolution of the Committee for the relief of the Poor of the City of Limerick, 28th June, 1822.

That their sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to the London Society for the relief of the suffering poor of Ireland, for their several donations to this city, by which addition to their funds, the Committee has been enabled to undertake such measures for alleviating the existing distress as have already proved highly beneficial, and which further pecuniary assistance would afford them the means of extending with the greatest benefit to the afflicted poor of this populous city.

From Francis O'Beirne, Esq. Drumsna, County of Leitrim, 9th July, 1822.

I am directed to express the thanks of our Committee for the liberal and timely aid granted to them. I feel how feeble, how inadequate, any such expression must be: wrong-headed and unfortunate as my countrymen may often have been, they are not deficient in the virtue of gratitude; the name of England must be for ever dear to them.

From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, 13th July, 1822.

I may say I never left that town (Galway) in *high spirits* and *confident security* until now, unless I am unexpectedly disappointed in the arrival of the provisions. It appears to me that all is and will in future be well. I am satisfied that the whole west of Galway is now well supplied; the Government have ordered the most extensive public works to be executed in all the distressed districts; and I have had a long and most interesting interview with their Engineer, a very sensible, intelligent man, as he appeared to me, and he assures me, that the bulk of the *population* of Connamara will be *immediately* employed, and that many are already so. I have received also from various parts of that large district, the most cheering letters. My gloomy letters (but

indeed strictly true ones, for I have never in *the least* exaggerated our case), have reached the public prints, and I know have excited much interest for our sufferings among our good neighbours. I would hope that their generous, humane, considerate, persevering minds, may be relieved by this account. Before I left Galway I saw upwards of 2400 men, women, and children, receive one wholesome meal of food,—bread and milk; these are mostly from Connamara; but having heard that provision and employment were now at their own homes, many of them requested of me to send them back, giving them some little provision to feed them on their way, and I expect before the end of next week to freight a fleet of boats with a large body of them, and to leave these poor creatures safe at their doors. In respect to extensive employment, the same extensive works are carrying on, as the engineer informs me, in Erris, and all the most distressed parts of the county of Mayo.

From Sir Benjamin Bloomfield, Bart. Newport, County of Tipperary, 16th July, 1822.

I cannot adequately convey the grateful sense entertained by my brethren in the work of charity for the bounties already afforded to us; neither can I in adequately emphatic language convey the fervour with which the poor offer up their prayers and thanksgivings.

From O'Conor Don, Balanagar, County of Roscommon, 17th July, 1822.

I trust that my countrymen will ever retain a grateful recollection of the assistance that England so generously extended to them in the hour of their misfortune: and I cannot conclude without expressing the feelings of admiration and gratitude with which I am impressed at the liberality and magnificence of its contributions for the relief of this unfortunate country.

*From the Rev. Michael Tobin, P.P. Union of Ardmore,
County of Waterford, 22d July, 1822.*

Your Committee deserve the grateful acknowledgments, and have the heartfelt thanks of the poor Irish. Never was relief more timely, or more necessary than yours to the poor of this parish; the last farthing was nearly expended of what we were able to make up among ourselves, and the poor were obliged in many instances to go into the gardens and dig potatoes not half ripe, which, if used, may be productive of disease.

*From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, R.C. Archbishop
of Tuam, 26th July, 1822.*

It is not in the power of language to convey an overstated idea of the mass of misery under which these wretched beings laboured, when the bounty and munificence of your Committee first enabled me to visit them with relief. May the Almighty in his goodness reward those who gave me the means of alleviating their miseries, and of preserving their lives. It is to me a source of additional consolation to be able to affirm, that they duly appreciate the interest that has been taken to extend relief: they are truly grateful. Their English benefactors have made a grateful impression upon their hearts, which I think will be transmitted to the latest posterity.

*From the Rev. George Spaight, Cahoon, 27th July,
1822.*

In the name of the distressed poor, I now return you and your excellent Committee most sincere thanks for the readiness with which they attended to our application for pecuniary aid on this as well as on a former occasion, and for their very liberal grant of money; a grant which lays us under everlasting obligations to them. May the Almighty God evermore guide and protect them. May he pour down his richest blessings on them, and on that noble people who, commiserating our poverty and wretchedness, have with unexampled munificence endeavoured to remove famine and disease from our starving population. Surely the vast debt

of gratitude that Ireland owes to England can never be paid; never can we make a sufficient return for the zealous, the unremitting exertions which she has made in our behalf.

From the Lord Bishop of Limerick, July 29th, 1822.

I would express, if I were able, the feelings of gratitude which the continued generosity of your Committee excites in those who are thus, by your charitable bounty, made the agents in preserving the lives of their unfortunate countrymen. I believe that I may say that your bounty has been so effectual, that not a single life has been lost either in the city, or the liberties, out of a population of more than sixty thousand.

From Major-General Bourke, Limerick, 1st August, 1822.

The London Committee have in almost every case kindly anticipated their applications. They cannot, however, permit any further exercise of their benevolence towards the poor of this country than by the grant of the sum now specified.

From the same.

4th August, 1822.

I am directed by this Committee to return you their grateful acknowledgments for your very liberal donation, and to inform you that it will more than meet the wants of the county.

From the Rev. Edwin Stock, Crosmolina, County of Mayo, 1st August, 1822.

That with the utmost gratitude for past favours, we feel it quite unnecessary to trespass further on the liberality of the London Tavern Committee on behalf of the distressed poor of this district, because they are at present abundantly supplied with provisions by the Irish Government, and we have had repeated assurances from the best authority, that such supplies will be continued as long as they shall be found necessary.

*Resolutions of the High Sheriff and Grand Jury of
the County of Clare, at the Summer Assizes, 1822.*

That for the last three months this country has been placed by the visitation of Providence, in a situation of the deepest and most alarming interest.

That a dearth of the chief article of subsistence having prevailed to an unparalleled extent, our resources were insufficient, and we were awaiting in anxious and almost hopeless solicitude, the desolation of our property, and the destruction of those who are entitled to look to us for support.

That from these awful calamities we have been mainly rescued by the unbounded liberality of our British fellow subjects.

That it is our most earnest wish, and that our most pleasing prospects are founded on the expectation, that the signal generosity which we have experienced, may call forth such a return of feeling as may still further strengthen the connection between the two countries, and give to the ties which now bind us to Great Britain the additional confirmation of attachment and of gratitude.

That the most sincere thanks are due, and that our Foreman be requested to communicate to the London Tavern Committee, and other Committees, the deep sense which we feel of the benefits conferred upon us.

*From Stephen Gallwey, Esq. Killarney, County of
Kerry, 4th August, 1822.*

The Local Committee are unwilling to trespass further on the liberality and munificence of the London Committee, now that the scenes of distress and starvation which they have hitherto daily witnessed, are removed.

*From the Rev. Joseph Robert Wright, Tullagh Glebe,
County of Cork, 7th August, 1822.*

It gives me heartfelt pleasure to be able to communicate to the humane London Committee, and the charitable English public, the gratifying intelligence that their well-timed and continued liberality to the suffering poor of this neighbourhood, has been attended with the most beneficial effects, and that thousands who must otherwise have perished prematurely, have, by their goodness, been rescued from inevitable destruction, and spared to offer up, I trust, constant prayers and thanksgivings to God for their kind benefactors.

*From the Right Hon. Lord Carbery, Baltimore,
County of Cork, 8th August, 1822.*

These two Committees unanimously agree, and I entirely concur with them in the opinion, that any further assistance from your Committee to this country, as a means of relieving distress from want of food, is not requisite. All apprehensions on that score might be almost said to be at an end this moment, and certainly will be completely removed in another fortnight; and there remains in our hands ample funds to meet all demands up to that time.

*From the Rev. James O'Driscoll, P. P. Kilmichael,
County of Cork, 8th August, 1822.*

I am confirmed in this impression by reflecting, that I address myself to Englishmen; men who are all alive to the finest sympathies that ennoble human nature, and whose recent deeds of benevolence in the cause of suffering humanity in Ireland, have pre-eminently surpassed any thing of the kind on record, and prevented thousands of Irishmen from falling victims to famine and disease; and I may add too, with equal truth, to the demoralising consequences growing out of idleness and want.

From Peter Holmes, Esq. Nenagh, County of Tipperary, 8th August, 1822.

I am suse it will be a source of satisfaction to the generous individuals who have so nobly contributed to the relief of this country, to hear that in this instance at least their liberality has produced the happiest effects, and that numbers, who without that assistance would probably have perished, are now in a fair way of being able to support themselves, as the approaching harvest will give them full employment; and the last remittance will enable us to employ them in the intervening time: by far the greater part of our fund has been paid at the rate of sixpence halfpenny a day to men, and fourpence to women and boys, and public works of permanent utility to the health and improvement of the town have been the result of their labours.

I hope and trust that the conduct of the English nation to Ireland, in this season of calamity, has been such as to leave an indelible impression on the minds of a people who, whatever their faults may be, are not deficient in gratitude.

From Thomas Morony, Esq. Milltown House, County of Clare, 10th August, 1822.

I beg to inform your Committee that we have in this Barony (Ibrickane) a sufficiency of provision and funds to make it unnecessary further to intrude on their munificence in this particular.

From J. E. Strickland, Esq. Loughglyn, County of Roscommon, 10th August, 1822.

I cannot close this letter without expressing the satisfaction I feel in witnessing the benefit which has been derived to the population from the beneficent exertions of the Government, of your Committee, and also of other charitable societies. The people have been rescued from all the horrors of starvation and disease, and will, I trust, very soon be able to support themselves on the natural resources of their own harvests. I passed through a great part of the Barony yesterday, and had the happiness of remarking a manifest improvement in the looks of the peasantry.

From Kean Mahony, Esq. Cahersiveen, County of Kerry, 10th August, 1822.

Simply to thank your Committee for this additional proof of their splendid liberality so frequently exercised towards us, would be but poor, but to give adequate expression to the overpowering feeling of deep and lasting gratitude with which I am indelibly impressed, would be impossible; minds, such as your Committee are composed of, require only to be assured, that in this Barony they have saved several hundred families from inevitable death by famine, no instance of which, thank God, has occurred. We shall, I trust, have a sufficient fund to employ for a considerable time all those poor people who have been always hitherto obliged annually to migrate into the neighbouring counties about this period of the year, in search of that employment which they were unable to obtain at home, and thereby save their families from those extremes of want, which they are sometimes subject to during the most bountiful seasons: disease has been checked by the late supply of nutritious food, and I have no hesitation in taking upon me to say that we are amply supplied with provisions for this season, with a cheering prospect for the next. Your Committee has thus gloriously terminated what it so nobly commenced. And that the God of mercies may shower upon them and their high-minded countrymen, the brilliant rewards of a benevolence unparalleled even in England, is my sincere wish.

At a Meeting of the Grand Jury of the County of Galway, at the Summer Assizes, 1822.

Resolved,—That we avail ourselves of this our first opportunity to offer to the Committee of the City of London Tavern, and, through them, to the whole British Empire, the expression of our most grateful acknowledgments for the timely and efficient aid afforded to the peasantry of this country, whereby, under Divine Providence, they have been rescued from present famine and disease, and such measures under their guidance have been adopted, as afford to us a well grounded hope that we shall not have to lament a recurrence to similar disaster.

*From James Hickson, Esq. Kenmare, County of Kerry,
14th August, 1822.*

It is the opinion of the Local Committee, that in consequence of the funds now placed in the hands of the Irish Government by Parliament, and the relief expected to result from the application thereof, the Committee do not feel disposed to trespass further on the benevolence of the London charitable Committee.

*From the Central Committee of the County of Kerry,
15th August, 1822.*

Resolved,—That no further aid appears to be necessary for the district of Corkagwinny.

*From the Central Committee of the County of Clare,
16th August, 1822.*

In compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 3d instant, covering several cases of applications for relief, the same were laid before the last central Committee, and I am commanded to say, that the harvest having now set in with every prospect of plenty and abundance, it does not appear necessary to grant the relief so applied for.

*Resolutions of the Grand Jury of the City of Limcrick,
16th August, 1822.*

Resolved unanimously,—That the most grateful thanks of the Grand Jury be and are hereby given to our benevolent fellow subjects of England, for their very liberal subscriptions in aid of the poor of Ireland.

That the thanks of the Grand Jury be and are hereby given to the London and other Committees, for the pecuniary and other relief which they have forwarded for the support of the poor of this district.

From Walter Joyce, Esq. Foreman of the Grand Jury of the Town of Galway, 18th August, 1822.

It becomes my duty as Foreman of the Grand Jury of this town to transmit to you, on the part of your Committee, the unanimous expression of our fervent and grateful acknowledgments for your noble and generous exertions to alleviate the awful calamity which, during the present season, has so generally and extensively pervaded this district.

In conveying to you this manifestation of our feelings, I feel the proudest satisfaction in the persuasion, that the consequences of your benevolent interposition will continue to be deeply felt throughout this country, even long after the objects of it shall have ceased to exist.

Prejudices have been softened,—new ties of union and concord have been cemented,—and Ireland, disclaiming all foreign relations, has learned to look to her natural protectors in the hour of her adversity.

From Dominick Browne, Esq. Foreman of the Grand Jury of the County of Mayo, Summer Assizes, 1822.

Resolved,—That the most hearty thanks of the Grand Jury are due, and are hereby given, to the Committee of Relief of Irish Distress at the City of London Tavern, for their most humane, benevolent, and effectual efforts in arresting the progress of distress in this county.

From the Rev. Michael Tobin, P. P. Union of Ardmore, County of Waterford, 19th August, 1822.

I feel doubly grateful for this remittance, because I continued the poor men in employment in the expectation and hope that the Committee would grant my last request ; they have neither disappointed me nor the poor, and they have our joint blessing, and prayers to the Father of the poor, our Lord Jesus Christ, to pour down his choicest blessings on our generous benefactors. After reading your admonition yesterday from the altar to the people, I endeavoured to point out to them what a heavy debt of gratitude they owed to their English fellow-subjects, and exhorted them to repay it in the only way in their power, by offering their fervent prayers for their prosperity here and hereafter. •

From the Rev. Edward Dowling, Vastina Glebe, County of Westmeath, 21st August, 1822.

The truly generous and warm-hearted address of the benevolent British Committee, together with their proverbial liberality and beneficence, shall not want publicity so far as my humble sphere extends. Though indeed the remotest bounds of this afflicted land are not ignorant of the kindness of their sister country, impressed, as they are, with a grateful remembrance of benefits conferred, however discord may sometimes pervade them.

From the Rev. W. D. Hoare, dated Committee Room, Limerick, 21st August, 1822.

I now can safely say I do not think there ever was afforded to this city more timely aid than that received from your Committee, and in its consequences it has been productive of the happiest effects. We have been enabled to cleanse very many habitations of the poor ; we have made the streets and lanes leading to their wretched habitations easy of access ; we have improved all the avenues to our city, by making good path-ways ; we have prevented idleness and vice, and under the blessings of Almighty God, by

English generosity and English benevolence, obviated plague and sickness, for never do I remember less at this period of the year; and this I attribute greatly to the employment afforded to the poor, which caused them to be so much in the open air, instead of lounging all the day in their miserable abodes. I hope I may be excused for these few remarks, which I make under a deep feeling of personal obligation to your Committee, for the good done to my fellow citizens.

From the Rev. William Butler, Kilsieky, County of Clare, 22d August, 1822.

• In my endeavours to convey the lively feeling of gratitude entertained by my parishioners and self, for this humane and liberal donation, I feel that any assurance I am capable of expressing, falls very short indeed.

The friendly and pathetic address which accompanied the money, did not pass unnoticed. The truly benevolent spirit which it breathes, coupled with the exertions of your Committee and all our English friends, have made such impressions on the hearts of a people possessing as much tender susceptibility as any other nation in the world, as can never be removed from their minds.

From Berry Norris, Esq. and the Local Committee of Mohill, County of Leitrim, Aug. 22, 1822.

We express our fullest conviction, that were it not for that assistance, and the promptness with which it was given, several hundred persons in this extensive and populous parish alone, must have died of starvation; for notwithstanding almost every individual, whose circumstances justified an application to them for assistance, most willingly contributed to our fund, yet the generally prevailing distress had so effectually cut off the resources of those dependant on agriculture, that their contributions were necessarily limited, and were it not for the remittances from your Committee, our Local Committee would have been compelled to retire from their duty in despair.

I have no doubt your Committee will hear with heart-felt satisfaction, that their exertions have relieved in this parish alone, between nine and ten thousand individuals.

From the Right Rev. Dr. Mc. Nicholas, R. C. Bishop of Achonry, County of Sligo, 23d Aug. 1822.

This country owes an eternal debt of gratitude to England, whose prompt and noble generosity rescued our peasantry from the horrors of famine and pestilence. May Providence always enable the humane and liberal English nation to continue the benefactors of mankind.

Address of the Inhabitants of the West Headford District to the London Committee, transmitted by R. J. Mansergh St. George, Esq. (Chairman at the Meeting) 27th Aug. 1822.

We, the inhabitants of the Western District of the Union of Headford, in the county of Galway, lately oppressed by the miseries of famine, but now, through your assistance, restored to plenty and comfort, press earnestly forward to offer you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

We are aware of our inability to give expression to the warm feelings of our hearts, but to remain silent on such an occasion is impossible.

In this small district, nearly 4000 of us were in a state of absolute starvation, looking forward to an abundant harvest, which, through the blessing of Divine Providence, was in prospect, but of which we could not have lived to partake, without the ready and effectual aid of you, our brethren and benefactors.

We have received your friendly and benevolent address, the sentiments whereof have made a deep and lasting impression on our minds, and we pray the Almighty Disposer of all things, to assist us in profiting by your advice and example, and to keep alive in our hearts the grateful remembrance of your charitable exertions.

*Sligo Town and Union Relief Committee Room,
20th August, 1822.*

Resolved,—That this Committee respectfully present to Messrs. Hyett and Brearly, agents to the London Committee, their very cordial thanks for their attendance this day, and for the valuable information they have communicated; the Committee also beg leave to express to those Gentlemen the deep sense of obligation they entertain of the benevolent regard paid to the necessities of the poor in this town and union by the London Tavern Committee, and the admiration and gratitude they cherish for the unbounded liberality of the British nation towards this country generally, in the distresses with which she has been recently visited.

*At a Meeting of the Central Committee of the County
of Cork, 29th August, 1822,*

WILLS GEORGE CROFTS, Esq. High Sheriff, in the Chair.

Resolved,—That impressed with the deepest gratitude towards the members of the London Tavern Committee, for the sympathy they have taken in the sufferings of our peasantry, our heartfelt thanks are due, and are hereby given to them for their devotion to the cause in which they have been engaged, and for the affectionate zeal and unceasing solicitude they have evinced for the improvement of the condition of the lower classes in this county.

*Address of the Grand Jury of the County of Kerry,
2d September, 1822.*

The High Sheriff and Grand Jury of the County of Kerry, at the Summer Assizes, 1822, impressed with the deepest and most grateful sense of the magnificent liberality and beneficence of their fellow subjects of Great Britain, and the various associations formed for the relief of the suffering population of Ireland, take this opportunity of making public the indelible impression which such high-minded generosity has produced, and upon the part of their almost

famished, but now nearly relieved people, to return their most unfeigned thanks ; cherishing at the same time the hope that the munificence thus exerted will not fail of completing that perfect cordiality, and union of sentiment and interest, between the sister islands, so necessary to their mutual peace, so essential to their mutual prosperity.

That the Secretary of the Central Committee be requested to transmit these resolutions to the different societies who have made such splendid contributions, and that they be printed in the *Courier*, *Patriot*, and *Kerry* newspapers, for one post.

*At a Meeting of the Central Committee of the County
of Leitrim, at Carrick on Shannon,
2nd September, 1822.*

The Central Committee of the County of Leitrim, avails itself of the opportunity afforded by your visit to express the high sense they entertain of the generous interposition of the English people, and of the important benefits derived to this country from the indefatigable exertions of the London Tavern Committee.

Be pleased to assure your Committee, that they do not receive their only reward in the gratitude of Irishmen : their efforts have been also attended with great political advantages ; the magnanimous interest taken by England in the fate of their fellow subjects, and the ardent sympathy manifested in their distress, which could alone have led to such great and generous sacrifices, have achieved more than centuries of connexion, in securing their attachment, and which we trust, will form an indissoluble bond of union, and continue an everlasting source of strength to the British Empire.

In concluding our labours, it is a gratifying duty to renew the tribute of our heartfelt acknowledgments to your valuable Committee, by whose exertions, under Providence, a great portion of our countrymen has been preserved ; and we fondly indulge the hope that the temporary connexion we have maintained with your Committee, will be the foundation of continued national attachment, and the commencement of an auspicious era, for this hitherto unfortunate country.

Committee Room, County of Sligo, 5th Sept. 1822.

Resolved,—That the members of this Committee feel called upon to express publicly their deep sense of gratitude towards the London Tavern Committee, and the other benevolent Committees which have so munificently and so promptly directed the stream of their bounty to our late afflicted district—thereby becoming the happy instruments under Providence, of averting from our land all the horrors of famine and disease.

• *Central Committee Room, Castlebar, County of Mayo,
7th September, 1822.*

Resolved,—That to the people of Great Britain we feel bound by a new tie of affection and gratitude. They no sooner heard of the sufferings of our peasantry, than they came forward simultaneously in every part of the country, and poured in their contributions to that benevolent society, which first united itself in the metropolis.

The most grateful tribute we can pay to the City of London Tavern Committee, is, to shew the efficacy of their exertions; and we have the most heartfelt satisfaction in stating, that, by the astonishing rapidity with which they transmitted the means of relief to every place where distress had manifested itself, the lives of thousands have been preserved, whom a delay of a few days would have consigned to the grave.

*Extract of a Letter from Thomas Spencer Lindsay,
Esq. accompanying the foregoing Resolutions.*

“ I have much satisfaction in being able to assure you, that this feeling is not confined to the members of the Central Committee alone, but is entertained in its highest sense, by the whole population of this county.”

*At a Meeting of the Loughrea Local Committee,
12th September, 1822,*

WM. M. BURKE, Esq. High Sheriff of the County of Galway,
in the Chair.

The coming in of a plentiful harvest has delivered our distressed peasantry from the sad necessity of depending on others for their daily bread, and has freed us from the obligations we undertook of supplying it. We have the satisfaction to find, that we can now leave them to their own exertions, so improved in looks and strength, that many have reason to say, it was good for us to be afflicted.

The subscriptions raised by the British Public for our deliverance, were commensurate to the benevolence of the high-minded people whom you so worthily represented. We thank you for the share you were pleased to allot to the district under our charge. Your bounty was liberal, and came to us doubly enhanced by the kindness of manner, the affectionate and excellent advice, with which it was accompanied.

Finally, respected friends, we thank you that you have perfected your labours without being weary of well doing; you have lent largely to the Lord, may He reward you plenteously. Your's is indeed a favoured nation; Providence has exalted you into a great and good people; the mighty are not exempted from your power, the most forlorn are protected by your care. May the Spirit of Grace inspire you so to use those blessings, as to merit their continuance. Farewell, may God for ever bless you.

From the Rev. Wm. Urwick, Sligo, 28th Sept. 1822.

Numerous advantages have already resulted to this land from the labours of your Committee, beyond the supply of temporary extreme necessity. Political, and even religious prejudices, have been softened, and a union has been, we trust, established between the two kingdoms, which nothing but munificent charity on the one part, and deep-felt gratitude on the other, could produce.

From J. E. Strickland, Esq. Loughglyn, County of Roscommon, 16th September, 1822.

I cannot close this letter without giving vent to the feelings of satisfaction and happiness with which I have witnessed the almost miraculous delivery of the inhabitants of this district from the horrors of famine and pestilence. In the month of May last, I saw this whole population bearing every mark of hunger in their debilitated frames. I knew that the means of subsistence did not exist in the country, and I did not conceive it possible that relief could be administered either in time or in quantity, sufficient to save numbers from perishing; but I have now the happiness of seeing those very people in the full vigour of strength, and without, to my knowledge, the loss of one single life from want of food. The promptitude with which the people of England answered the call of charity, and the celerity with which your Committee organised the distribution of the funds to the most distant points, were truly wonderful. These funds were the first which reached this part of the country; and my firm belief is, that that first distribution did save many lives.

At a Meeting of the Nobility, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Kerry, 22d October, 1822,

The High Sheriff presiding,

Resolved,—That the grateful thanks of the County of Kerry, assembled pursuant to requisition by the High Sheriff, be returned to our illustrious fellow-subjects of Great Britain, who, in the late calamitous sufferings of the south and west of Ireland, promptly pressed forward, and with splendid and unparalleled munificence saved our famishing peasantry from imminent and inevitable destruction.

Resolved,—That the grateful thanks of this County be returned specially to the benevolent Chairman of the London Tavern Association, John Smith, Esq. M.P. who, with his generous associates, through the whole season of Irish calamity, devoted, with unconquerable perseverance, the labours of his mind and body to this noble work of mercy, and by his wisdom and energy eminently contributed to the judicious and successful appropriation of British benevolence.

*From Kean Mahony, Esq. Cahersiveen, County of
Kerry, 12th November, 1822.*

I also look forward with a degree of confidence which I never before felt, that the day is not distant, when the afflicted peasantry of Ireland will feel, and universally acknowledge, that in the hour of their sorrow and their need, one spontaneous and unexampled act of British generosity had done more for their permanent improvement and comfort, than centuries of British legislation have ever effected.

*From the Right Hon. Lord Waterpark, Cahir, County,
of Tipperary, 13th May, 1823.*

I beg leave to send an account of the £50 laid out at Tubrid, and I hope it will prove satisfactory.

I assure you the good it did to the poor was very great, and they were most grateful. The advantage to the public has also been highly beneficial.

ADDRESSES

TO

THE PEASANTRY.

*Address from the Committee of the British Subscription,
to the Peasantry in the distressed districts in Ireland.*

Brethren,

The time is fast approaching when our supplies will cease, when we of this Committee must retire from the satisfaction of assisting you; and when, as we trust, the extraordinary distress, which alone could justify our interference, will have been alleviated.

We feel it to be, though almost the last, yet not the least act of kindness towards you, to apprise you a little beforehand of the approach of this period; and to conjure you, if our advice can have any weight, or our affectionate entreaties any influence, to cultivate that spirit of industry which can best guard you against continued want or occasional distress; together with that spirit of order and good conduct, which will invite new means of employment among you, will increase your comforts and your resources, and (what we are persuaded will be a motive with your generous minds) will best reward the exertions of your friends.

We will not attempt to tell you how your distresses have been felt in this country! how readily the British Public, and many individuals in embarrassment themselves, have flown to assist them! But we may be permitted to assure you, that not the most suffering family or individual in any district has felt greater consolation in the relief afforded,

than you have yourselves given to us, as often as we have heard of any of you preserved and comforted by our assistance.

May God preserve and cherish you,—may he give you the fruits of the earth and every other blessing in abundance, and may we your brethren and fellow-subjects rejoice with you in all your welfare, as we have sympathised in your distress.

For the Committee,

JOHN SMITH, Chairman.

*City of London Tavern,
August 9th, 1822.*

Second Address.

Brethren,

The time is arrived when we must once more address you, and must inform you of the actual close of our Subscription, for the approach of which we endeavoured to prepare you.

No Funds now remain at our disposal; and we intreat you for your own sakes, and for ours, not to deceive yourselves with the expectation of further supplies which cannot be sent, nor to wound us with representations of want, which we should only have to lament our incapacity to relieve.

The understanding and the feelings with which it has pleased God to bless you as a people, enable you to receive with advantage explanations always due to distress, and peculiarly so, when they may tend to afford any satisfaction.

The funds confided to us by a liberal and benevolent subscription, were raised to relieve a pressing and extraordinary distress—to avert Famine and all its sad attendants—and to restore you to your accustomed health and strength, and habits of life. To aim at great improvements was beyond our reach; but it was our duty, for your sake, to take care that as far as possible, relief should come to you through the medium of your own industry. After every call of distress has been by this Committee, diligently, and in due proportion to other sources of assistance, attended to, a sum has remained in our hand:—that sum we have determined to assign to objects either immediately incident to the late distress, or most likely (in as much as reviving or creating

sources of employment can effect that purpose) in some degree to prevent your again experiencing the same sufferings. If success should follow these efforts, aided by your own exertions, the produce of your industry would increase your comforts, and would afford a resource, whenever any disappointment in your own cultivation, or partial scarcity in your country, should again occur.

With this view, we have anxiously weighed every mode of making the money in our hands subservient to the most pressing of your actual wants, and to your future welfare. We have selected the objects which have appeared most beneficial; and they have not been adopted without the concurrent and urgent recommendation of all your best friends, and our most respected advisers.

Such are the principles on which we have endeavoured to conduct and conclude the business confided to us. But our sentiments towards you, our wishes for your happiness as brethren and fellow-subjects, do not terminate with the conclusion of our trust. If you have interested the British people by your late severe distress, you have likewise endeared yourselves to them by your conduct under it,—by your thankfulness to God for every measure of relief; by your reception of our endeavours to assist you; and by the many acts of good feeling and virtue which your distresses have called forth. And now comes our last word, and our best wish. Farewell. May your welfare be increased by industry, by instruction, and virtuous habits. May your genuine character of kindness, loyalty, and fortitude, continue to make you respected and beloved by your fellow subjects, and may God bless you.

For the Committee,

JOHN SMITH, Chairman.

*City of London Tavern,
August 31st, 1822.*

To the Peasantry of those parts of Ireland to which it may be possible to send some small supplies of Clothing.

Brethren,

The London Committee for managing the Subscription made for your assistance, have once more occasion to address you, in explanation of a contribution of Clothing in their power to offer to a very limited number, but which they have not the means of enlarging to the extent of your wants, or of their own wishes.

The benevolence of many respectable Ladies in England, anticipated the distress and ill health which the winter might occasion to many persons who were bereft of almost every article of necessary clothing, or who had nothing to use but such articles as were in all probability strongly tainted with the infection of fever; and the Committee thought the view taken of your probable wants in this respect so just, and the necessity of affording some relief so urgent, that they have appropriated a considerable sum in furtherance of this attempt to assist you, well aware that during the late extraordinary pressure no industry could have kept many among you provided with the Clothing which was essential to health. The greatest part of the sum so appropriated is to be expended in Ireland, that it may produce the double advantage of affording aid to those who manufacture and prepare the Clothing, as well as comfort to those who are to receive it; whilst a portion is to be laid out in Great Britain, from whence it can be distributed so as to afford the best and earliest relief in the districts in which it would be difficult to find the means of encouraging or establishing, in time, any manufacture.

The Committee hope to be able to extend some small portion of this assistance to numbers considerable in themselves, but probably not exceeding one in fifty of the number who have participated in the late relief.

They appeal to your good sense and good feelings not to let this limited aid be a source of discontent because it can go no further. Who among you would wish that great numbers should unnecessarily remain without assistance because it is impossible that the relief should reach himself? What Irish breast will not rejoice, rather than repine, that a neighbour's sufferings are mitigated, whether his are so or not?

The distribution will likewise be a subject which will require all your generosity and candour to interpret fairly.

It must in its nature be very limited. It will be administered by those valuable friends, both of yours and ours, who have hitherto assisted us both.

The fixed principle of this Committee, adopted for your sakes, has been to encourage industry among you, feeling a conviction that without industry neither individual happiness nor national prosperity can exist. The distribution of Clothing will therefore be governed by this principle: relief will be given as far as possible through the medium of your own industry; gratuitous aid being confined to extreme cases of the most urgent distress.

We write this in order to anticipate disappointment, and to save you the pain of a murmur, which by explanation we may hope to prevent. The task of distributing limited aids to extensive wants, is one both of anxiety and pain; in some respects it has been rendered less so by your character as a people, and by the confidence with which we can address both your intelligence and your feelings: we entreat you to use both on our behalf in interpreting this last testimony of our regard. We expect every thing from your kindness and generosity towards each other; and we venture to ask of you for ourselves, that instead of letting our limited aids be a source of jealousy or discontent, you will turn them into an occasion of shewing sentiments worthy of yourselves, and most gratifying to those who wish to love and respect you.

For the Committee,

JOHN SMITH.

*City of London Tavern,
September 1822.*

APPLICATION
OF THE
SURPLUS FUNDS.

August 29th, 1822.

At a General Meeting of the Committee specially summoned to consider of the principle and mode of applying the balance remaining in their hands,

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P. in the Chair,

Resolved,

That the sum of £5000. be granted for the assistance of the industrious poor engaged in the Fisheries of Ireland, within the districts recently afflicted by the distress of scarcity.

That an additional sum of £5000 be applied in aid of the general contribution of necessary and useful Clothing, for the indigent poor of those districts.

That the sum of £2000 be allotted for the relief of some extraordinary cases of distress in those particular districts.

That the sum of £5000 be granted in aid of the funds of the Mansion House Committee of Dublin, to be applied to the promotion of industry, in the distressed districts of the South and West of Ireland.

That the sum of £3000 be granted to "The London Society, for improving the Condition of the Poor in Ireland," and to the "British and Irish Ladies Association for the purpose of promoting the Industry and welfare of the *female Poor* of Ireland." That this sum of £3000 be vested in

the Chairman, and the Right Hon. J. C. Villiers, for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect.

That the sum of £40,000 be appropriated to encourage and assist the employment of the poor of the distressed provinces of Ireland, in the manufacture of Flax and Wool, and in the purchase of the materials, and machinery necessary for that purpose.

That letters be written to the Chairman of the several central Committees, and to his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, requesting to be informed what sum remitted from us, remains in their hands unexpended.

That the cordial thanks of the Committee be given to the Chairman (John Smith, Esq. M.P.), for his valuable services, and for every part of his conduct in the administration of the important trust confided to the Committee.

That the thanks of the Committee be given to the firm of Smith, Payne & Smiths, not only for the great trouble which they have allowed to be given to their House, but also for their liberal and benevolent conduct (at a period when the urgent demands upon the Committee appeared to exceed the subscription,) in the offer to make the advances required, free of any interest.

September 4th, 1822.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee convened this day for the purpose of considering the plans to be adopted in carrying into effect the Resolutions of the 29th ultimo.

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P. in the Chair,

Resolved,

That the Commissioners of Fisheries be informed that the £5000 voted on the 29th ult. is to be appropriated strictly and exclusively for the assistance of the Poor Fishermen, on the coast of the distressed districts, and that the Commissioners be requested as far as is possible, to apply this grant in a fair proportion in the way of loans, repayable, so as to make this money reproductive, and annually applicable in the manner above described.

That any surplus which may remain in our hands after the present appropriation of our funds, be applied to the same purposes with the £40,000 voted on the 29th ultimo.

That the principle on which the grant of £40,000 for the encouragement of the manufacture of Flax and Wool be appropriated, shall be by Loans repayable with interest, so as to make these funds reproductive, and annually applicable for the promotion of this branch of industry among the Peasantry of Ireland.

That a Sub-Committee be appointed to enquire into the most advisable mode of appropriating the sum granted for the encouragement of the Linen manufacture, in reference to the districts intended to be included in the distribution, as well as to the measure of relief to be afforded.

13th September, 1822.

Resolved,

That the following Counties be included in our appropriation; Cork, Clare, Kerry, Galway, Mayo, Limerick, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Leitrim, and that the principle of appropriation adopted be the following. The total sum to be employed for the encouragement of the production and manufacture of Flax and Wool, be divided in the following manner, taking as the basis of the proportion the grants already made, added to the population, but only adding one half of the population of the county of Cork, and one third of the population of Tipperary, where the distress appears to have been more partial, deducting from the maritime counties of Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, and Cork, the proportion of the grant of £5000 made for the Fisheries, and charging the respective counties with the sums remaining unexpended in the hands of their Central Committees and Trustees.

That the £5000 voted to the Board of Fisheries be appropriated in the same proportion for the maritime counties of Cork, Kerry, Mayo, Galway, Clare, and Sligo; and that this resolution be communicated to the Commissioners.

That the sum of £5000 be remitted to the Trustees in Dublin to whom the balance remaining in the hands of the Mansion House Committee has been transferred; requesting that the money may be appropriated amongst the several counties lately distressed hereinafter named, viz. Clare, Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo, Limerick, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Leitrim, with an extract of a Letter from Sir John Newport, which is submitted to their consideration.

October 4th, 1822.

Resolved,

That in cases of a special nature, it may be expedient to add to the number of Trustees (not exceeding thirteen in the whole) for the distressed counties of the South and West of Ireland.

October 10th, 1822.

Resolved,

That of £40,000 granted for the encouragement of the growth of Flax and the manufacture of Linen and Wool, the several sums hereinafter mentioned be allotted for each of the ten distressed Counties of the South and West of Ireland, in addition to the balances remaining in the hands of their Central and other Committees respectively.

For Clare.....	£3000
Cork	5500
Galway.....	6000
Kerry	4000
Leitrim	2000
Limerick	5300
Mayo.....	4500
Roscommon...	4000
Sligo	3200
Tipperary	2500
	<hr/>
	£40,000

And that the Trustees of each county be informed, that they are at liberty to draw for the respective sums voted to them whenever they shall have met and formed themselves into a body for the purpose of the Trust.

16th April, 1823.

Resolved,

That the sums remitted to the Committee by the generous and benevolent contributions of our fellow subjects in the East Indies far exceeding the amount calculated on when our final appropriation was decided, the said sums are not to be considered as included in the appropriation of the surplus voted on the 4th September last.

That the further sum of £5000 be hereby voted to the British and Irish Ladies Society for promoting the industry and welfare of the Peasantry of Ireland, with a recommendation that it should be expended in aid, and not in substitution for local efforts and contributions, and that they be requested to report annually to the Board of Directors.

25th April, 1823.

Resolved,

That the further sum of £2500 be granted to the Society for improving the condition and increasing the comforts of the Irish Peasantry.

That the whole amount of Special Grants to be made from this date shall not exceed £1000.

That, in the administration of the Special Grants which may, under the present circumstances, be made, our correspondents be specially requested to avoid any gratuitous relief, as such mode of relief is considered by this Committee as likely to interfere with the principles on which it is proposed to enable the Peasantry of Ireland to acquire the means of assisting themselves.

REPORTS

ON

THE FISHERIES.

*From Henry Townsend, Esq. Irish Fishery Office,
Dublin, 4th June, 1822.*

I am directed by the Commissioners of the Irish Fisheries, to submit for the consideration of the Committee of Subscribers to the London Fund, some suggestions relative to the employment of the peasantry in the distressed districts in the south and west of Ireland; as the medium of distributing amongst them the funds at the disposal of the Committee.

The Commissioners have placed in their hands an annual fund of £5000 for the encouragement of the coast fisheries of Ireland. This fund they conceived, on the most careful examination of the subject, could not be better expended to promote the object for which it was designed, than in building piers for the protection of fishing boats, of which they found a lamentable want at the different fishing stations round the coast. They accordingly employed an able engineer to survey the entire coast, to point out the most eligible stations for such works, and to furnish the necessary plans and estimates. A considerable portion of this survey is now completed, and some of the works commenced. As soon as the Commissioners learned the distressed state of the southern and western coasts, they suspended their operations in every other quarter, with a view to direct all their funds and efforts to set on foot there, without delay, as many of these works as possible, in aid of the benevolent exertions making to relieve the sufferers through the means of employment.

The Commissioners originally, on account of the smallness of their funds, and to render as diffusive as possible the benefits of their application, deemed it advisable to require that the persons locally interested, should in all cases contribute half the expense either in money or labour. This principle has on the present emergency retarded the views of the Commissioners, and induced them to make an application to Government, which they hope will be successful, and by obviating this impediment, enable them at once to put great numbers into active employment.

Among the many modes of applying their funds that may be suggested to the Committee, the Commissioners direct me to state, that it appears to them, none can be deserving of more serious attention than the opening of roads from these several fishing stations into the interior of the country. Besides the urgent object of present employment, such a measure would throw open a permanent and inexhaustible supply of food for the poor in future seasons of scarcity, by facilitating the transport of fish into the interior. It would extend a vast field for the industry of the poor people, by encreasing the demand for fish. On the coast of Ireland large quantities of the finest fish are frequently thrown to manure the land, for the want of encouragement to cure it. The Commissioners need not point out to the Committee, that these roads would equally benefit every other branch of industry and commerce. Should they be undertaken, they would carry present relief into the interior of the country, while the coast was deriving relief from the funds belonging to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners desire me further to state, that in the event of the Committee desiring to act on their suggestion, they will be ready to give every assistance in their power to the benevolent objects of the subscribers; they will be ready to furnish the Committee with plans and estimates from their engineer, free of expense; that any money appropriated in this way by the Committee should be wholly expended in manual labour. They will also be ready to give any superintendence that may be deemed useful on their part, and that of their officers, both in the design and execution of the works; by which the Committee may have the benefit of the system acted on by the Commissioners, to secure the proper execution of the works they undertake, and the due application of their funds.

Should the Committee determine to undertake any work of greater magnitude than the short lines of road in the contemplation of the Commissioners, they will be equally ready;

should such undertaking connect directly or indirectly with the objects under their peculiar care, to render every service and information to the Committee.

The Commissioners desire me to state, that they have been induced to offer these suggestions with a sincere desire to aid the benevolent objects of the subscribers, aware that the Committee must experience great embarrassment, both in the selection of works to be undertaken, and in fixing upon proper and disinterested persons to entrust with the expenditure.

*From H. Townsend, Esq. Irish Fishery Office,
29th August, 1822.*

I have to inform you that the deputation from this Board (as with reference to my letters of the 30th ult. and 8th instant) have returned from Galway, after effecting the arrangements connected with their mission, and have reported to the Board that, pursuant to the powers vested in them on this occasion, they have given directions to the civil engineer of this establishment to put in immediate process of execution the following fishing piers, to each of which are annexed the estimated cost of their erection, amounting in the whole to £8020, in aid of which the London Committee have granted a sum of £2000.

In the County of Galway,

£1420.....	{	Barna	£300	to complete it.
		Spiddle.....	150	ditto.
		New Harbour	420	
		Ballinacourty	300	
		St. Kitts	250	

In the County of Clare,

1000.....	{	New Quay.....	200
		Carrigaholt	400
		North side Dunbeg	400

In the County of Mayo,

1250.....	{	Killalla	150
		Bunatragher	300
		Ennis Turk	400
		Tarmon	400

Kerry.

£1200.....	{	Brandon Bay.....	£400
		Ballinskelligs	400
		Cahersivine	400

Sligo,

1300.....	{	Roughley Point....	800
		Pullagheeny	500

Cork,

1600.....	{	Curlagh	400
		Beerhaven	200
		Courtmacsherry....	500
		Clonakilty.....	500
250.....		Great Island of Arran	250

£8020 total.

The Commissioners of Fisheries, conceiving it may be satisfactory to the London Committee to hear that their operations are not altogether confined to the foregoing piers, direct me to transcribe a list of twelve additional ones on the coasts of the distressed districts, which have been for some time in progress of execution; the gross estimate of which amounts to £5095.

In the County of Clare,

£1500.....	{	Kilbaha	£500
		Seafield	500
		Liscannor.....	500

Kerry,

1145.....	{	Barra	250
		Dingle.....	400
		Valentia	495

Galway,

1250.....	{	Costello Bay	350
		Roundstone.....	400
		Cleggan	500

Mayo,

1200.....	{	Old Head	£500
		Achil Sound	400
		Ely Erris or Saleen .	300

£ 5095 total.

The Commissioners of Fisheries further direct me to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 2d and 19th instant, (the former enclosing two letters representing the utility of a fishery pier at Robert's Cove, county Cork, the latter enclosing a letter from the Rev. Mr. Burrowes, relative to certain improvements in his neighbourhood as connected with the fisheries), and to state in reply, that the whole of the fund at their disposal (consisting of a parliamentary grant of £5000 per annum, under the last Fishery Acts of the late King, of sums subscribed by individuals, and of grants from charitable Committees) is already appropriated to the erection of the foregoing works, the distribution of fishing tackling along the coasts of the distressed districts, and the repairs of boats belonging to the most necessitous class of fishermen.

It will not be irrelevant I presume to the subject of this letter, to state for the information of the Committee that, in addition to the before mentioned list of piers which are to be erected on the coasts of the distressed districts, there are two others now in progress on the coast of Galway not inserted therein, the expenses of which will be equally defrayed by the persons locally interested, and the Board of Fisheries, viz.

The Claddagh of Galway	estimate	£928
Clifden Harbour	ditto....	495

As the list of works detailed in the commencement of this letter (and which are connected with the grant of the Committee) are now in progress, and occasion large weekly demands, I have to signify the request of the Board of Fisheries, that the Committee will be pleased to take such measures as to them may seem most prudent, for remitting the sum of £2000 to this Board; such being the sum so liberally granted by the Committee, in aid of executing the works alluded to.

*From H. Townsend, Esq. Irish Fishery Office,
6th March, 1822.*

In reply to your letter of the 13th ultimo, relative to the application of the £5000 placed at the disposal of this Board by the London Committee, I am directed to acquaint you for their information, that on the 7th of November last the Board passed a Resolution to the following effect.

“ That directions be issued to Mr. Kenny, the Inspector of Fisheries for the Westport District, to order the boats and nets of the poor fishermen of Clew Bay and Killery, to be drawn up on shore for the purpose of being examined, and in such instances as he shall find necessary, to have both boats and nets prepared, and fitted for fishing with as much expedition as may be; that is, in such cases as the fisherman can give security by note of himself and another solvent person to the Inspector, payable in six months for such repairs, which in no case is to exceed four pounds sterling per boat, and which in no case is to be given to the fishermen in money; but the repairs paid for by the Inspector, who is to see them sufficiently done for the purpose of immediate fishing.”

And by a resolution dated the 14th of November (same month) that principle of relief was extended to the whole of the distressed districts; it has however only been carried into successful operation in the counties of Galway and Mayo.

In the county of Galway, large supplies of materials have been purchased at prime cost, and given out without additional charge to the poorer class of fishermen, on their passing a note jointly with some solvent person, payable in six months for the amount. The maximum value of materials allowed to any individual application is not to exceed *four pounds*; but there are very few instances as yet, in which an applicant has required a quantity to that extent.

The number of boats already repaired on the coast of this county to the 24th ultimo, were ninety-eight. The total

value of the materials issued, amounted to £248. 12s. 7d.; making the average cost of repairs to each boat £2. 10s. 9d.

The officers who superintend the application of this loan, speak in the most promising terms of the benefits likely to result from it; and when the Board consider the number of craft already repaired by so small an expenditure as £248. 12s. 7d., added to the accommodation afforded to the poor fishermen by a credit of six months, and the very great saving of expense by being supplied with the materials at wholesale cost, they entertain a sanguine hope that the laudable and benevolent intentions of the Committee will in time be fully realized.

With respect to the coast of Mayo, the Board have pursued the same plan as that adopted for Galway. Large supplies of materials have been purchased at prime cost, and their applications are to be similar in every particular; but although the requests for repairs have been most numerous, yet from the difficulty of obtaining security sufficiently solvent, the aid afforded has not been to that extent as in the before mentioned instance of Galway. The Board, however, are not without hope that this difficulty, if not promptly, will at least be gradually removed, when the landed proprietors of those coasts find the expediency of personally stepping forward in behalf of their tenantry, and thereby obviating to a considerable degree the difficulty alluded to.

Finding that in the other counties the system was not coming into operation, it was suggested to the Board by some of their most active members, who are also members of the Linen Board, and who had experience of the very efficient manner in which the Trustees acting in those counties under the appointment of that Board administer the fund committed to their management, that those Gentlemen would probably undertake the application of the money to be lent to the poor fishermen within their respective counties, through the agency of their Local Committees, whose knowledge of the wants of the fishermen in their several districts would enable them, in conjunction with the fishery officers, to make a more judicious selection of objects for relief than the fishery officers unaided by their local knowledge could effect. The Board have written to the Trustees on the subject, and they have consented to co-operate with this Board in the management of the fund in question, through the medium of their Local Committees

on the sea coast (aided by such assistance as they may require from the officers of fisheries), for the more effectual execution of its object.

*From H. Townsend, Esq. Irish Fishery Office,
21st August, 1823.*

In the counties of Galway and Mayo, the fund appears to be already in full operation, and promises the most gratifying results. In the former (Galway), *two hundred and seventy-six boats* of poor fishermen have been already repaired and fitted for the fishery, for the sum of £827. 7s. 4½d., making an average of about £3 per boat.

In the latter county (Mayo), *two hundred and seventy-nine boats* have been also repaired and fitted out, for the sum of £771. 8s. 8d., making an average of about £2. 15s. 4d. per boat.

It may be also satisfactory to the Committee to learn, that such of the promissory notes of poor fishermen as have fallen due have been paid with punctuality; and the Board trust, that the same precision and faithful dealings will be observed by those who have received aid from the fund, but whose notes have not as yet become demandable.

Irish Fishery Office, 28th August, 1823.

In addition to the communication which I had the honor of making to you in my letter of the 21st instant, relative to the application of the £5000 granted by the London Committee for the relief of the Coasts of the distressed districts, I am directed to acquaint you, that the Board have this day received a letter from their officer stationed in Galway, with the sum of £100 enclosed, arising from the payment of poor fishermen's notes which had fallen due within the present month. This communication, in proof of the punctual dealings and honest intentions of the poor fishermen who have availed themselves of the aid afforded by this fund, I have been directed to make to you for the information of the Committee.

REPORT
OF
THE FISHERY LOAN COMMITTEE
FOR
THE COUNTY OF CORK.

The Trustees for the encouragement of industry in the county of Cork, having at the request of the Commissioners of Irish Fisheries, undertaken to direct the management of a Loan Fund, in aid of the distressed Fishermen on the coast of this county, proceeded in the first instance to the appointment of a Committee from their own body, to whom was entrusted the immediate arrangement of the detail, and the following persons were named :

Right Hon. Lord Carbery,
Colonel Hodder,
Mr. Barry, Inspector General of Fisheries.

The Fishery Committee, availing as well of their own local knowledge of the maritime districts, as of the several sources of information presented to them by the officers of the Fishery, who have received the orders of their Board to afford all possible assistance on the present occasion, commenced their operations by subdividing the Coast into eight districts, and naming a local Committee for each, who with the assistance of the Fishery Inspector for the district, may undertake the direction of the plan upon the principles fixed by the benevolent donors of the Fund.

The Districts and their respective limits are as follows.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Boundary.</i>	<i>Local Committee.</i>	<i>Inspectors.</i>
Youghall	Youghal to Roches Tower	Colonel Fitzgerald Capt. Parker, R.N. John Jenkins	J.O. Croker, Dungarvon
Cove	Robertstown to Oysterhaven inclusive	Thos. Geo. French Wm. Harrington James J. Roche Thos. P. Boland William Dorman	Rd. Dodd, Cove
Kinsale	Oysterhaven to East side of Courtmarsherry Harbour	William Newman J. T. Cramer J. B. Gibbons	M. Donelan, Kinsale
Clonakilty	Courtmarsherry to the Galley Head	John Leslie Colonel Travers R. Deasy J. Sealy	Ditto
Glandore	Galley Head to Toe Head	Thos. Hungerford Richard Adams Philip Somerville	Rd. Thorpe, Glandore
Baltimore	Toe Head to Roaring Water	John Freke R. N. Somerville Samuel Townsend Michael O'Driscoll	
Crookhaven	Roaring Water to the Mizzen	Rev. John Jagoe Lionel Fleming Daniel Coghlan Florence M'Carthy	
Bantry	Mizen Head to River Kenmare	Tim. O'Donovan M. O. Sullivan Rev. E. J. Alcock John Jagoe M. Murphy Rev. M. M'Chean John S. Bird	John Boyce, Bantry.

The Fishery Committee have to regret that, although they have received the most cordial assurances from all those gentlemen of their readiness to co-operate in the superintendence of the plan, a most serious and apparently insurmountable difficulty has presented itself, in a general objection on the part of the Local Committees to render themselves personally responsible for such part of the fund as may be placed at their disposal. The several arguments urged by those gentlemen who have raised this objection, have been most maturely considered. The subject has occupied the utmost attention of the Fishery Committee at their several meetings, and they unanimously declare, that they can see no possible mode by which the spirit and intention of the London Committee's Resolution can be strictly adhered to, unless they most decidedly determine, in no instance to deviate from the principle of requiring security from the Local Committees.

Many reasons may be assigned for this determination.

1st. Without security the Fund cannot possibly be rendered "permanent and reproductive."

2nd. By requiring security from the Local Committees, you insure active, vigilant, and persevering superintendence.

3d. By placing this plan upon a substantial basis of security, you afford a strong inducement to the Government and the Fishery Board to increase the Fund; an arrangement now under consideration.

The Local Committees have urged, that the Trustees have not themselves been required to give security, and that the exertions of the gentlemen on the coast, is all that should fairly be required. The answer is perfectly obvious; the Trustees are little more than the depositories of the fund, and if a similar degree of caution be observed in all the gradations of its distribution, there can be no loss to any party. The Fishery Committee fully admit, that the great danger is to be apprehended in the last stage; but as it is intended to limit the extent of aid to each person to Four Pounds, it is presumed that if proper care be taken to require good security, in addition to that of the borrower, no loss can ensue.

Again it has been urged, that any Fisherman, who can get security, may at present have materials on credit; but it should be remembered, that for that credit he is charged an enormous profit, and that the Trustees having to lay out a large sum in the purchase of the necessary articles, upon which neither interest nor profit is to be charged, can offer a most important saving to the poor Fishermen in remote

districts, even though they were to require payment in cash.

The gentlemen who have been named of the Local Committees, are generally persons who, as landlords on the coast, are themselves indirectly benefited in a most material degree by any advantages offered to their poor tenants; and it is fully expected that in most cases the landlords, who have naturally the most direct control, will, by joining in the securities to be given by the poor Fishermen to the Local Committees, enable them to procure the means of yielding a tenfold return to those who have the humanity to assist them.

The Fishery Committee therefore repeat their conviction, that security should be the basis of the proceeding: they do not anticipate that the plan will be immediately availed of in all quarters of the coast, and they are even desirous that its course should be slow and sure. Already have some of the Local Committees, in the remote districts, expressed their willingness to give the security required; and the very compliance with the condition affords a proof, that there the aid is most wanted. The Fishery Committee have learned with much gratification, that there is now in progress through Parliament, a Bill for the better regulation of Loan Societies, in which it is hoped that a clause will be inserted, giving to such bodies a priority over other creditors, in cases where aid has been extended for the repairs of fishing boats; an arrangement likely in a great measure to remove the difficulty with regard to security.

The Fishery Committee now offer to deliver in Cork, to such of the Local Committees as think proper to comply with the proposed stipulations, such materials as they may consider most useful, to the extent of One hundred and fifty pounds for each district; and as the mode of distribution and management of the stock must vary according to local circumstances, the Fishery Committee do not feel that it would be possible to lay down any precise plan; they therefore only offer a few general suggestions which may be equally applicable to all places.

It will be remembered, that the present operation is in a great measure divested of the inconvenience usually resulting to charitable committees, from the want of any stipendiary officer whose services may be required; the Fishery Board having most particularly directed the attention of all their officers to the subject. It may therefore be well to make the Inspector of Fisheries in each district acting Secretary to the Committee, and it may be part of his duty to receive applications for aid, to examine the boats of the applicants,

and to lay the several claims, with his report on each, before the Committee, who may finally decide upon them, and issue their orders for the materials, which should in the first instance be placed in convenient situations according to the extent of the district, in all possible cases under the charge of the inspector; but where the dépôt may be too remote from his station, it is submitted that the charge may be given to some person, well recommended and from whom security may be had, who should receive a per centage on the value of the materials; which, together with any other contingent expenses, may be added to the first cost. By these means weekly meetings of the Local Committee during the months of distribution will suffice, and by a systematic arrangement of the business in the outset, it will be attended with very little trouble.

The securities taken by the Local Committees, should be made payable to the Treasurer of the Loan Fund, in order to entitle them to an exclusion from stamp duty, one of the measures proposed in the new Bill.

The Fishery Committee subjoin an Appendix, containing copies of the official correspondence on the subject of this fund, which will more fully explain the intention of the London Committee with regard to it.

APPENDIX.

*Irish Fishery Office,
September 14, 1822.*

Sir,

Herewith I transmit you a Copy of two Resolutions passed by the London Tavern Committee on the 29th ult. and 4th instant, by which you will perceive, that a further sum of Five Thousand Pounds is placed at the disposal of the Board, to be appropriated strictly and exclusively in assisting the poor Fishermen on the coasts of the distressed districts, and on the plan of a reproductive loan, so as to give permanency to the fund, by making it annually applicable to the object in the contemplation of the Committee.

It may not be unnecessary to observe to you, that the Board conceive the coasts of the distressed districts to be those of the following counties; namely, Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Mayo, and Sligo.

You are required by the Board, to take the subject of the Committee's Resolution into your most attentive consideration, and report to the Board (as speedily as circumstances will admit) such suggestions as you conceive may assist them in carrying into operation the plan struck out by the London Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. TOWNSEND.

To J. R. Barry, Esq.
Cork.

The sums allocated to the distressed counties, are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Cork	1193	4	6
Clare	813	11	3
Galway	1138	16	7
Mayo	1084	18	2
Sligo	433	18	0
Kerry	759	6	6

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS

PASSED BY THE LONDON TAVERN COMMITTEE.

*Committee Room,
City of London Tavern,
August 29, 1822.*

Resolved,

That the sum of £5000 be granted for the assistance of the industrious poor engaged in the Fisheries of Ireland, within the districts recently afflicted by the distress of scarcity.

*Committee Room,
75, Old Broad-street,
Sept. 4, 1822.*

Resolved,

That the Commissioners of Fisheries be informed, that the £5000 voted on the 29th ult. is to be appropriated

strictly and exclusively for the assistance of the poor fishermen on the coasts of the distressed districts, and that the Commissioners be requested, as far as is possible, to apply this grant in a fair proportion in the way of loans, repayable, so as to make this money reproductive, and annually applicable in the manner above stated.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Dingle, November 12, 1822.

SIR,

In obedience to the Board's order of the 14th September, I beg leave to offer my suggestions as to the most judicious mode of carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of the London Committee, with regard to their grant of £5000 for the encouragement of the fisheries on the south and west coasts of Ireland. I trust the Board will not attribute the delay to any inattention to this important subject, but to a consciousness of the extreme difficulty of the task, and to an unwillingness to submit any plan which may be found either erroneous in its principles, defective in its details, or in any degree inconsistent with the spirit of the London resolutions; which, I conceive, must necessarily form the basis of any arrangement adopted in the application of this grant.

The London Committee are desirous that this fund, which, like their other grants of the same nature, is intended, not as a substitution for, but in aid of, other sources of encouragement, should continue to be permanent and undiminished, and that it shall be reproductive; and they have subjected it to the same regulations, with the exception of interest, as have been adopted for the management of their grant in aid of the linen manufacture.

This determination appeared to me, I confess, on the first view, rather an injudicious application of the same system of encouragement to two branches of industry, totally different in all possible respects; but the more I have considered the subject, the more clearly does my mind observe the remote, but solid and substantial advantages which must be derived from the permanent existence of such a fund; and the more firmly convinced do I feel, that it was quite impossible for that benevolent body to have resolved upon a more admirable

mode of making so small a sum effectually useful to the poorer classes of fishermen. In venturing to express this opinion, I do not by any means forget the numerous difficulties which will be found at first in bringing the thing to work, but in the very effort to remove those difficulties, I anticipate no small degree of moral improvement in the habits, as well as amelioration in the condition, of the parties relieved. I am fully aware that, in many places to which the grant extends, we shall have to contend with the most turbulent, the most undisciplined, and the most improvident classes in society. I am well acquainted with the looseness of their habits, the irregularity of their dealings, and their general want of system; but in justice to that portion of my countrymen I must add, that I have universally observed a degree of rude honesty among fishermen, a kind of honourable feeling with regard to the discharge of those engagements incurred for their outfit, which is not so remarkable among many other persons in the lower ranks, and which is the foundation of all my hopes for the success of the present measure.

I have previously observed that this fund is intended, not as a substitution for, but in aid of, other sources of encouragement; and it is in this light that I see its great advantages. In cases where the sum to which the loan is limited may be found insufficient for the purposes required, I presume the parties are not to be deprived of the advantages already offered by the Board, in the shape of repairing bounty, of which those who most want it are at present unable to avail, from the difficulty of obtaining a small sum for the first advances. A poor fisherman in getting his crazy bark repaired, most fully exemplifies the advantages derived by persons in a higher station; who, from a trifling aid, obtained in the outset of life, have risen to affluence; if he can but get his boat once on the stocks, and have a few pieces of timber and plank, his ingenuity will suggest a thousand little devices for the supply of the materials necessary for her repairs. If he can give the carpenter subsistence, he will get credit for the wages; the smith will afford him the same accommodation; the houses of his neighbours are searched for pieces of old iron and bits of timber; so that, between a small sum in hand, a little credit, some kindly feeling on the part of his friends, and a great deal of ingenuity and perseverance, the boat is afloat once more.

Before I proceed to offer my opinion on the various points for consideration in the detail of this proceeding, I would beg leave to suggest to the Board a plan which appears to me

likely to facilitate its progress, and to diminish, if not altogether to remove, many of those obstacles which at present exist.

To the Board's determination to administer this fund by the exclusive intervention of their own officers, I see many objections. The operation is in its nature quite distinct from the usual routine of official duty, being to a certain degree undefined, and necessarily involving the exercise of a discretionary authority, with which I would by no means invest any individual however respectable he may be. It is rare to meet in any one person a combination of all those qualifications necessary on such an occasion; and I am so perfectly conscious, that in the management of the fund placed at my disposal at Dingle last summer, I should have committed many errors without the assistance of some individuals who kindly afforded me their aid, that there is no description of duty, which I should again more tremblingly undertake.

It is not, I presume, unknown to the Board, that the London Committee have appointed Trustees in the several counties of Ireland, where distress prevailed during the last summer, for the administration of the funds granted in aid of the Linen Manufacture. In the counties of Cork and Kerry, I happen to be particularly well acquainted with the characters of most of those noblemen and gentlemen who have been selected : and having attended their meetings, (as a Trustee myself, in Cork, and by invitation in Kerry,) I do anticipate much benefit from the system they have adopted, and from precisely the same mode of proceeding with regard to our Fishery Fund from the London Committee, I should expect the very best results.

The Trustees have, throughout their respective counties, either appointed or recognised the appointment of Local Committees, of which they, themselves, are *ex officio* members, to whom is entrusted the management of the detail, and who are made personally responsible for such funds as may be granted to them. Those Committees consist of the clergy, and such of the resident gentry as feel disposed to afford their assistance, and the limits of their respective districts are clearly defined ; thus, by a subdivision of the labour, and by availing of local knowledge and experience, the thing is rendered easy and simple in its management, and the desired object is more likely to be attained.

Having thus far explained the nature of the proceedings, I would beg leave most respectfully to recommend, that the

Trustees in the counties of Cork and Kerry be invited so far to co-operate with the Fishery Board, as to undertake the management of the fund now in question, in addition to the much larger one, placed at their disposal by the London Committee for other purposes; and that the several officers of fisheries be directed to afford their most zealous and active assistance, both to the Trustees, and to the several maritime Local Committees in their respective stations. In each county it happens that one of the Trustees is also a Commissioner of Fisheries; a circumstance likely to ensure to the Fishery Board, that the administration of the fund would be governed by a strict adherence to their leading principles. The inspectors may be admitted members of the Local Committees; in short, by the united efforts of all parties, the business could not fail to be well done, and the fund would be sure to continue undiminished. By such a plan you enlist the landed proprietors of the county in the same cause with you; an important object, which I do not conceive to have been yet attained; you lay the foundation for a useful and respectable intermediate source of assistance and information to the Board and the Government, on the important subject of the fisheries, and you create a most valuable aid to the Board's officers throughout the country. In considering the detail of the proceeding, I shall classify my observations under the heads of security; amount of loan, whether in materials or in money; length of credit; and mode of repayment.

SECURITY.

All those persons with whom I have conversed on the subject, apprehend that to obtain security will be the great difficulty; however, I should expect that the smallness of the sum, the certainty of its being invested in the improvement of part of the borrower's property, and the great probability of his being able to meet the payment by his own exertion, will induce persons who may be thought sufficient security to become responsible for the repayment; more especially, when the assistance afforded by the Fishery Board, in the shape of bounties, is considered.

AMOUNT OF LOAN.

The amount of the loan to each person may, for the present, be limited to four pounds, with a discretionary power to the Committee to extend it, if their means, proportioned to the applications for aid, enable them.

MATERIALS, &c.

Whether in materials, or in money, is a question upon which, as regards the Fisheries, there cannot be a second opinion.

1. By giving only materials, and seeing them expended, you guard completely against misapplication of your funds.

2. By purchasing in large quantities, and distributing without exacting any profit, you give very often double, sometimes treble as much, as the applicant could purchase for the money; I should therefore recommend, that in the County of Cork, the fund be subdivided into eight parts, and the county into as many districts, namely, Youghal, Cove, Kinsale, Clonakilty, Glandore, Baltimore, Crookhaven, and Bantry. The limits of those districts to be hereafter determined, that the portions of the money applicable to each district, be forthwith invested in the purchase of such materials for repairing boats, as may best suit the respective wants of each place, and as may be most difficult to be had there. Even in those places where there are no revenue establishments, I anticipate no difficulty in procuring some kind of a depôt, where those materials may be placed under the charge of the Inspector of Fisheries, who may deliver them as directed by the Committee. In cases where it may be necessary to incur any expense, whether for a depôt, or in the distribution, a small profit may be added, to be regulated by the Committee.

The County of Kerry I would subdivide into six districts, viz. Barra, Brandon, Milltown, Valentia, Dingle, and Kenmare.

I am fully convinced, that the very circumstance of there being in each of those remote places a depôt, where materials for repairs may be had on cheap terms, even for cash, would give a greater impulse to the Fisheries than any aid which they have hitherto received.

Some difficulties may be experienced in the management of this stock, where no inspector resides. In such case I

would propose to give the materials in charge to some person well recommended, and from whom sufficient security may be had; this person may receive a per centage on the sales, as a remuneration for his trouble, and to him the orders of the Committee may be directed, the price of each article having been previously fixed by the Committee, at such a rate as would cover the cost and charges; I would even permit this person to make sales, for cash, of small quantities, to such poor fishermen as can produce a ticket from the inspector, or either clergyman of the parish.

LENGTH OF CREDIT.

The length of credit must, I should think, vary according to circumstances, but the securities taken should, in the first instance, be liable to interest, with a power to the Committee to remit it, in case of punctual payment, the period of which must depend chiefly on the time when the loan is made, as the interval must include at least a season; for instance, a loan granted in November should be at least for nine months, in contemplation of the fruits of the succeeding season; which, for the boat fishery, scarcely commences before July.

MODE OF REPAYMENT.

The mode of repayment, should, in all possible cases, be in cash. As a protection to the person becoming security, the inspector may be directed to hold over the bounty debenture of the borrower till he has discharged his debt. In very remote districts I should be disposed to recommend that the Committee allow the storekeeper, or manager, to receive in payment cured fish of good quality, which, when any quantity was had, may be disposed of at the best market, for account of the borrowers.

If the fund were sufficiently large to enable the Committee to keep at the respective stations, a stock of bonded salt for the use of the poor fishermen, it would be a great source of relief.

I cannot conclude without expressing my regret, that the county of Waterford should have been excluded from any portion of the present grant. It strikes me, that the exer-

tions of individuals to improve the condition of the country, should at all times be met with a corresponding degree of liberality; in which case, Dungarvon is certainly entitled to great consideration. The munificence of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and the humane and judicious management of his agent Colonel Curry, have been eminently useful in that quarter; but there is still much to be done, and I know no place, where the people are more industrious, or more deserving of encouragement. I would therefore beg leave to suggest, that a proposition be made to the landed proprietors in the county of Waterford, by the Fishery Board, to double any fund that may be raised by subscription for a similar purpose.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. BARRY,

Inspector General of Fisheries.

To H. Townsend, Esq.

Secretary to Commissioners,
of Irish Fisheries, Dublin.

The names of the Trustees, appointed by the London Committee in the counties of Cork and Kerry, are as follows :

CORK.

The Earl of Shannon,
Lord Bishop of Cork,
R. C. Bishop,
Lord Carbery,
W. W. Becher, Esq. M. P.
Robert De la Cour, Esq.
William Copinger, Esq.
John O'Driscoll, Esq.
Colonel Hodder,
Justin Mc Carty, Esq.
W. G. Crofts, Esq.
Julius Besnard, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.
R. B. Cotter, Esq. Sec.

KERRY.

Lord Headly,
Lord Brandon,
Knight of Kerry,
R. C. Bishop,
Hon. Thomas Browne,
Stephen Rice, Esq.
John O'Connell, Esq.
Doctor Church,
John Hickson, Esq.
James Hickson, Esq.
Arthur Rowan, Esq.
F. B. Chute, Esq.
Edward Purcell, Esq. Sec.

*From J. Boyce, Esq. (Inspector of Fisheries) Bantry,
County of Cork, 9th July, 1822.*

Should such a mode of relief come within the principles of Committees of Relief in England, I would propose affording to the distressed fishermen the means of useful and continued employment, through the medium of their accustomed avocation. A sum of one hundred pounds would be sufficient to build ten row boats, which it is probable the Irish Fishery Commissioners would furnish with the necessary apparatus for fishing; and this number of boats would afford employment to no less than fifty fathers of families, and upon the whole would probably render two hundred individuals comparatively happy.

*From Henry Blake, Esq. Renvyle, Connamara, County
of Galway, July 26, 1822.*

There are shoals of fish called Molms on the coasts, and the people can catch them by hundreds from the rocks, but for want of salt cannot keep them from day to day. I however always keep repeating salt, salt, salt, and do again and again entreat the attention of all friends to the poor to this subject.

Supposing that for the next two years only, Mr. Foster's plan of giving out salt to the fish curers free of duty was tried; I assume that the Board wish to encourage the fisheries, and assist the poor to recover the dreadful calamity that God has pleased to visit them with; and I assert that by enabling the fisherman to purchase salt at 2s to 2s. 6d. per hundred weight, which is the cost price of the article, an impetus would be given to their exertions which it would take years to counteract, and what would the revenue lose? at most £1000, including all expenses.

*From the Right Hon. M. Fitzgerald, M. P. Fishery
Board, Dublin, July 28, 1822.*

I take the liberty of suggesting further the great advantage which would arise, if your Committee would be pleased to enlarge the application of your grant to us, to allow the

use of a portion of the common fund, in repairs of the smaller class of fishing boats.

All the reports of the Inspectors in the distressed districts convince us, that no object can be more pressing with a view to relief, or more calculated to have not only immediate, but permanent effects, in the encouragement of industry.

From H. Grattan, Esq. Dublin, August 14, 1822.

In 1801, every cottier almost on the south and west coast of Ireland, had his store of fish cured and saved, just as you have in England your stores of hams and bacon, for his winter's provision.

Since the salt duties, all that has ceased; but now that salt may be had at a lower price, and that piers are constructed for the small boats to lie along, and go in and out with safety, the poor cottager could be supplied with a good store of fish at the lowest rate.

There were 36,000 men employed last year in the local fisheries, all for the home consumption; and millions of herrings were thrown away, owing to the want of means to cure them, along the Quay of Galway in 1820. Three hundred boats lay with from 10,000 to 20,000 herrings in each, and the country was covered with peasants carrying them off to all parts of Ireland.

Surely this would be a business worth improving. It would draw the poor from the mere food of potatoes, and teach them to seek for something of a better description, and which requires a sort of manufacturing, and would give great employment all through the late distressed counties.

From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, County of Galway, August 24, 1822.

In my account furnished to your Committee on the 7th instant, you will find an expenditure of £300 to be placed in the hands of certain trustees, for the purpose of equipping a large body of fishermen in Galway with nets preparatory to the herring fishery. I took upon me to give this sum under the conviction, that this industrious people had been by unforeseen misfortunes of the season most sadly reduced,

and that it would be ample to set them all well up, and enable them again to earn for themselves and families an honest livelihood. Yesterday the worthy trustees into whose hands I placed this money, and who humanely undertook for me this troublesome work, presented me with a calculation under which they reported, that all the sail boats could be sent to sea well prepared with nets, &c. for the approaching fishing season.

From the Most Rev. Dr. Oliver Kelly, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, August 28, 1822.

Since the receipt of your kind favour, I have been making the most diligent enquiry respecting the best and most practicable plan for employing the people of Achill. From my own observations, and from what I could collect from the most intelligent amongst the people, it would appear that those who live along the sea coast might be profitably employed in the fisheries, were they furnished with the necessary tacklings; whilst the others could be usefully engaged in spinning, reeling, carding wool and flax, were they supplied with wheels, reels, hackles, and the necessary utensils.

From Denis Bingham, Esq. Bingham Castle, County of Mayo, September, 20, 1822.

I also beg leave to state, that adjacent to the coast of Erris lies the Great Fishing Bank where the Sun Fish or Basking Shark resorts. The Bank is distant from the coast about five leagues; on it is found abundance of cod and ling. On this Bank the Dutch formerly fished with great success, and for that privilege they paid a certain sum to the British Government. It is to be lamented that there are no vessels on this coast fit for the deep sea fishery, nor could this productive branch be carried on by the inhabitants, for want of capital and knowledge in the art of fishing in the deep sea.

But if Government or you would hold out any inducement to encourage experienced fishermen from other parts to come and settle here, it would greatly tend to the im-

provement of the inhabitants in this lucrative branch of industry. I would myself give a house and an acre of ground rent free, to each of ten or twelve ordinary fishermen who would come to live here, and give them a lease of one or two lives of it, with every other encouragement in my power.

Extract of a Letter from John Boyce, Esq. Inspector of Fisheries, Bantry, County of Cork, April 4, 1823.

In the month of June last I made an application, as Inspector of Fisheries in this district, and member of the local Committee here, to the relief Committee at the City of London Tavern, for a sum to enable me to build a few fishing boats that may afford employment to some part of the superabundant and starving population of this town, and was granted £50 for that purpose. This sum I have expended under the direction of the Committee here, and my expenditure has been so economically managed, that I have been enabled to build and fit out five stout fishing boats, each employing four men, and jointly affording the means of permanent subsistence to no fewer than *eighty-three* individuals, who otherwise must have remained burdens, or probably worse evils, upon the community.

Report from the Kerry Trustees for the encouragement of Industry, dated Tralee, April 23, 1823.

The Trustees have recently had communications from the Irish Fishery Board, enquiring whether they would undertake the management of the portion allotted to this county, of the fund granted by your benevolent Committee for the relief of poor Fishermen on the coasts, which the Trustees immediately answered in the affirmative, viewing this description of aid as likely to be productive of the most beneficial results.

The Commissioners of Fisheries have kindly directed their officers to render the Trustees and their District Committees all the information and aid in their power. The Trustees

lose no time in communicating with those officers, and I beg leave to enclose the copy of a statement just received from the Fishery Inspector of this county, by which you will be informed of the miserable condition of the boats, and how extensively useful the loans of the necessary materials of repair must prove.

The sum allocated to this county, namely £700, is doubtless very inadequate to the wants of the poor Fishermen, in order to effect a thorough repair of their boats; but it is hoped, that when the great importance of this description of aid becomes more generally known and understood, additional sources of relief may be resorted to.

Mr. Spring Rice has been so kind as to send the Trustees the draft of a Bill he has brought into Parliament, for the *amendment of the laws respecting Charitable Loan Societies in Ireland*. The Trustees feel confident that the wise and salutary provisions of this Bill, will be productive of the best consequences.

Copy of a Letter from John White, Esq. Inspector of Fisheries, to Edward Purcell, Esq. Secretary to the Trustees for the County of Kerry, dated Dingle, 5th April, 1823.

I beg leave to enclose (agreeably to the instructions of the Trustees) a statement of the Fishing Boats at the different stations on this coast, with an apportionment of the money stated by the Trustees to be allocated to Kerry, for repairs, &c. to be lent the Fishermen, in loans repayable. I need scarcely add that this sum is totally inadequate to a thorough repair, and will go very short in effecting a partial one.

April 5th, 1823.

List of Fishing Stations on the Coast of Kerry, from the North side of Kenmare River to Kerry Head, with an account of the number of Boats to be repaired at each station, and the amount of repair.

Name of Station.	No. of Boats.	Cost of Repairs.			Observations.
		£	s.	d.	
Dingle	27	50	10	0	{ There are Eleven of these Boats in a very bad state; would require £45. In the very worst repair.
Miltown (near Dingle)	10	22	10	0	
Ventry	24	51	0	0	
Dunquin	12	15	0	0	
Cloher & Ferriters Creek	11	28	0	0	
Smerwick	17	20	0	0	{ All in very bad repair. All in very bad repair;— would require £60, requiring all kind of materials for repair.
Brandon	19	38	0	0	
Castlegregory and Maherees	27	60	0	0	
Menard	4	8	0	0	{ These Boats would require £100; they require all kinds of materials for repair.
Barrow, Kilfenora, Spa, and Blenner-ville	21	59	10	0	
Kenmare (Reen Harbour)	42	89	10	6	
Sneen, including Rosscaulin, Rossmore, and Coss Harbour	73	98	5	0	{ Principal repairs are, hemp, junk, nails, pitch and tar, crooked timber and plank, and oars. Principal repairs are, oars, nails, tar, hemp, and junk, a small quantity of crooked timber and plank. Repairs, pitch and tar, oars, nails and junk, small quantity of crooked timbers and plank. These Boats are in general, in better repair than in other harbours.
Castle Cove Harbour to Derrinane	55	45	15	0	
Valentia, including Port Magee, Caher. Kells, &c.	90	150	0	0	
Ballinskelligs and Rinneen	40	40	0	0	{ There are 123 Boats on this station; 90 are in the very worst state; £250 would scarcely put them in proper order for fishing. Several owners are able to repair their Boats, and would pay ready money for material, if the market was near them; £150 will put them in tolerable repair.

ON THE
LINEN MANUFACTURE.

*At a Meeting of the Landed Proprietors of the County
of Limerick, held at the New County Court-House,
6th May, 1822,*

Resolved,

That it appears to this meeting, that the increase of the growth of flax, the spinning of yarn, and the manufacture of linen, is of vital importance in the promotion of morality and industrious habits among the peasantry of this county, and that therefore our Committee be requested to direct their attention particularly to this object.

*From Connell O'Donel, Esq.—Newport Pratt, County
of Mayo, 27th May, 1822.*

If the women could be supplied with flax, and kept employed in spinning, it would bring back to the idle loom hundreds of unemployed weavers. An individual Lady has been the means of giving employment to about 96 women, but the want of flax, and means being limited, it only is a temporary assistance to those few, producing, for the day's

work to each, the price of two quarts of meal ! A supply of wheels and reels, &c. is much wanted. Could this be carried on extensively, I am convinced that much relief would be afforded to numbers.

At a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants of the Town and neighbourhood of Bantry, 28th May, 1822,

The Earl of BANTRY in the Chair, .

Resolved, .

That a spinning school for the employment of females, now receiving gratuitous relief, would not only be of present but of extensive prospective benefit, by promoting those habits of cleanliness and industry, so much to be desired in this country. .

That we, therefore, humbly solicit from some of the benevolent societies in England, a sum of £100 for this purpose, our present funds being only adequate to employing the idle male population of the parish.

*From Encas Macdonnell, Esq. Dublin,
12th June, 1822.*

Several correspondents urge the importation of a quantity of flax, as providing a creditable and profitable employment for women and men, that (Mayo) being a yarn and linen district. I went this day to the yarn hall of this city to make enquiries, and also to Messrs. Crossthwaite, the principal persons in that line of business here. I ascertained that there is no foreign flax at this market, or in Ireland; nor is it generally approved. There is too much tow in it, and therefore the Irish flax, though apparently dearer, is in reality as cheap, according to the last London quotations. There could be twenty tons of Irish obtained at Armagh or other parts of Ulster, at about £60 Irish per ton.

However, if foreign flax should be preferred by your Committee, you could expend the proposed sum of £1000 in the purchase of it. The quantity would be thereby increased about five tons, and the coarser parts, when separated,

could be applied to a variety of purposes, as bed tickens, sheeting, small cordage, sacking, candlewick, netting, &c. I understand that the best markets for the purchase of foreign flax, are London, Hull, and Liverpool: should flax come from the north of Ireland, meal could be brought at the same time, as there is a great superabundance there at fair prices.

I propose the distribution of wool, because I find that the poor are, in many parts of Mayo, nearly naked, and the distribution would employ several thousands of women and men in the most distressed districts of the county, in the manufacture of the coarse cloths, flannels, blankets, and stockings, generally manufactured and used by our peasantry.

I have called this day upon Messrs. Dillon and other principal wool factors of Dublin, and find that wool can be had here for 16s. per stone; probably something less in the country, as the shearing is now proceeding.

*At a Meeting held at Temple Harry, King's County,
20th June, 1822,*

Resolved,—

That supplying the poor governors and governesses of the parochial school, with the means of enlarging the school house they are about erecting, to that size which will enable them to conduct their spinning, linen, and woollen manufactories to a greater extent, would afford not only temporary relief by the building, but would be the most effectual mode of preventing future want in this extensive parish.

Resolved,—That we have found the greatest benefit resulting from the small manufactory hitherto carried on, it having fully answered our expectations of affording subsistence to those who have been employed.

*From Alexander Kingston, Esq. Mosstown Castle,
County of Longford, 25th June, 1822.*

Our worthy Rector, the Rev. Henry W. Cobbe, has given a loan of £50, and has employed a man to buy flax and flaxen yarn; the former to be given out to poor women to spin, who could not otherwise be employed; many of them, though paid at the highest rate of the country, cannot earn more than two or three-pence per day; yet this sum, trifling as it seems, is a great relief to them: the latter is given to poor weavers who have not the means of buying yarn themselves, but are hereby enabled to earn five or six shillings a week, as a means of support for their families. On Saturday last the return of spinners was 104, and of weavers 24. I am fully of opinion that thus employing the poor, confers a greater benefit upon them, than purely gratuitous charity under any form whereby it can be administered. In two other of our neighbouring parishes, a similar mode of employment has been adopted; and if a moderate capital were vested in the hands of our Rectors, or such Gentlemen as could attend to the object for the purpose of carrying on, in this kind of way, the manufacture of coarse linen cloth in our county, it would greatly tend to the relief of our poor. On this subject much might be said, that the bounds of a letter will not admit of.

*From Dr. Elmore, Clonakilty, County of Cork,
29th June, 1822.*

One of the great and universal evils of this country is a superabundant population for the soil, pressing on it alone for support, unrelieved by manufactures, on account of which, (from the great want of capital in this country, probably caused by absenteeism,) we cannot compete with other nations;—the only exception to which is the linen trade. In this district we have a limited manufactory of coarse linens, and in proof of the importance of it, *not one case of want occurred among the manufacturers of them.* It is the capital circulated through our weekly linen-markets alone, which prevents the entire population from becoming a more frightful mass of want and misery, than that by which we are surrounded;

now, and for some time past, there has been an increasing demand for coarse linens, but last year there was a great deficiency of the flax crop, the Committee therefore allocated a sum of £50 from their funds, for the purchase of raw flax in the county of Limerick, which we have commenced selling to poor housekeepers at a loss of 20 per cent, conceiving it of much greater importance to give money through labour, than by gratuitous donations which relieve but the present hour, and steal from man the principles of independence.

From A. Clendining, Esq. Ballinrobe, County of Mayo, 22d July, 1822.

I would therefore propose, that some funds should be set apart for the purchase of wheels, which could be had from eight shillings to ten shillings each, and should be given to the poor who have daughters fit to spin, and at reduced prices only. It will afford them the means of industry, and although the daily earning is very small, about two-pence, still in a country cabin, where there generally are three or four, and often six or seven girls, it is of great importance, not speaking of the advantages of employment. In this country the corn, and young cattle and pigs, are generally the means for the rent. The flax being always at hand, and a ready money article, answers their taxes and all their little outgoings, and the potatoes support them.

From the Venerable Archdeacon Jebb, dated Abington Glebe, Limerick, July 26, 1822.

The two parishes of which this union consists, are of considerable extent; the population redundant to excess; and the great landed proprietors altogether non-resident. Some of those proprietors have, indeed, been liberal in their contributions in the present emergency; but the amount of such contributions, in itself not very considerable, is by no means an adequate substitute for the advantages which might, and would accrue from the continued, or even occasional resi-

dence of landlords. Through the bounty, however, of various public funds, in addition to private subscriptions, we have been enabled to extend relief to more than 600 families, comprising considerably above 3000 souls; and, with the additional £100 now to be applied from the donation entrusted by the Committee to my disposal, I have hopes we may be able to continue our aid, till, without any injurious consequences, the poor may enter on the consumption of the rising crops.

A plan has occurred to me, which I beg permission to submit for consideration. It seems desirable, not merely to relieve present distress, but, so far as our ability extends, to prevent its future recurrence. Now, in a country so much peopled as this, and without any thing like an adequate supply of agricultural employment, it is obvious that the great *desideratum* must be, the introduction of some manufacture, our great Irish staple manufacture above all others. Now, though much cannot be directly done towards the effecting of this great object, by the expenditure of £100, it strikes me that, indirectly, and as introductory to further exertion, that expenditure may be productive of incalculable advantage. What I would propose is, to procure and distribute a number of spinning-wheels, and a proportionate supply of reels: the very manufacturing of these articles, which should be carried on in this immediate district, or, at all events, within the county of Limerick, would, in itself, be most beneficial to several poor, industrious, and deserving families. The wheels I would give exclusively to those (and they constitute a large proportion of our poor) who rent small portions of ground, in which they might grow flax; and each gift of a wheel I would accompany with a small quantity of flax-seed. The wheel, I am persuaded, ought, in the present state of our population, rarely, if ever, to be given without some such accompaniment. In the recently-published "Report of the Irish Board of Health," there is a very sensible observation by Lady Glengall; that "it is of no use to give out wheels, as most of the trustees of the Linen Board do; for they are left idle three-fourths of the year, for want, among the poor, of the means of buying flax, and also, from having no market established for the sale of yarn." The latter objection is local: it does not, altogether, hold good in this country; and so far as it does, it might, with due management, be obviated. As to the former, and more considerable of these difficulties, it may, I conceive, be met more advantageously by a gift of flax-seed, than by a gift of flax. If flax be given, the poor will be made dependant on a similar gift

from year to year: the gift being wholly gratuitous, and complete without exertion on the part of the poor, will call forth no activity to supply its failure. After a year or two, besides, the poor would be apt to consider it rather as a prescriptive right, than as a voluntary favour: if it be, at any time, withheld, they will too probably account themselves injured, and resent as a wrong the mere cessation of a bounty. But, however this may be, the ceasing of the gift will imply the ceasing of their industry. Not so, where seed is supplied to them. In this case, the gift is mingled with their own labour, and, without that labour, would be wholly unproductive. They are thus induced to contribute so much from themselves to the preparation of the article, that, in the next year, the application of a part of their earnings to purchase flax-seed, will be felt as a very slight additional expense: such a gift will stimulate, instead of superseding, the industry and enterprise of the male cottager; while it will go, less directly, but more powerfully- and more permanently, than the supply of grown flax, to feed the spinning-wheel of the female. This, to me, appears a very important consideration. In Ireland, we have much of the helplessness of despondency; and the nicety is, to afford just sufficient *stimulus* to excite hope, without superseding labour; and, by exciting hope, to implant habits of cheerful activity. No mistake, I conceive, can be practically more mischievous, than the benevolent error of bestowing, (except in cases of extended calamity and want, which, like the present emergency, speak for themselves) the *direct* rather than the *indirect*; the *manufactured* rather than the *raw* materials of comfort, or even of industrious employment. A shilling earned by honest self-exertion, is better than a guinea gratuitously bestowed. The latter, indeed, instead of a benefit, is, most commonly, a serious injury. And what I say of money, I would say, except in rare and peculiar cases, of meat, drink, and raiment. It is surely better to give people the means of supplying their own wants, than to supply those wants for them. To say the very least, the latter mode has no progress in it: what we give to-day, we must give to-morrow; and so on, *ad infinitum*. Food, and blankets, and fuel will not generate wheels; but wheels will generate fuel, blankets, and food.

Several ladies of my acquaintance have given out flax to be spun at a daily hire, and have themselves afterwards disposed of the manufactured yarn. This has, usually, been a great temporary advantage to the poor of their neighbourhoods; but it contains not the seeds of any lasting and general improvement of the condition of our poor. On the contrary,

the plan has within it the materials of its own destruction. The yarn so manufactured, is commonly sold at a loss ; and the benevolence, even of the most benevolent, is so tired out by a continuance of this losing trade, that it seeks other and more promising channels in which to move, and the poor are, in the end, left in a worse condition, than that in which they were found. The truth is, the poor work heartlessly in all *factitious* employments. They work their best, only when they work for themselves, and of themselves. The gift of a wheel, and the gift of a small portion of flax-seed, will engage a poor family in industry ; and that labour, which, to a benevolent lady patroness, would be worse, than unproductive, will to the cottager be a source of sure, though at the commencement, and till some dexterity has been acquired, of small profit : still, however, not so small, as to preclude a continuance of the labour from whence it was derived ; while the increase of gain, arising from increase of skill, will be a growing stimulus to increase of industry.

I would, however, be far from discouraging the helping hand of the rich, in the progress of this industry. In the report already cited, Lady Glengall insists much, and justly, on the importance and utility of spinning-schools. In this parish, the present means are wanting, to form such an establishment. But we have other, and, perhaps, superior advantages, which seem to indicate this as a most suitable place for the commencement of a limited experimental plan. Some years ago, the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Limerick, built here a very complete scutching-mill, with two comfortable slated houses ; the one, a residence for the conductor of the mill ; the other, a store-house for the reception of flax. Both mill and houses, however, are at present, and for some time have been, unfortunately idle ; the funds of the Chamber of Commerce not enabling them to pay a sufficient salary to a properly-qualified superintendent. These buildings, however inefficient just now, may, I conceive, become the foundation of much future good. If, by any means, the Chamber of Commerce were enabled to transplant, and support, an industrious and intelligent family from the north of Ireland, possessing the necessary skill and experience, the husband might superintend the scutching-mill, and the wife might be a spinning-mistress to the female children and young women of the parish. A small sum to defray the expense of premiums, in wheels and flax-seed, to the best spinners, would be a great additional advantage. On this point I speak with difficulty ; but, as the thought has occurred, I dare not venture to suppress it ; and, rely-

ing on the indulgence of the Committee, I throw it out for consideration, whether, if there should remain, after providing for the present exigencies of the Irish poor, any overplus of their funds, a portion of that surplus might not be most beneficially employed, in some such manner as I have taken the liberty of suggesting. The fitness of Abington for an experiment of this kind appears, as I have already intimated, from the existence here of an apparatus, which needs only a little money to set it, and keep it at work. On other grounds too, it possesses a recommendation which has already operated largely in its favour. The Committee have been induced, as they kindly say, by certain public statements, to think well of my humble exertions. But those exertions would, assuredly, have been of little avail, had they not been met, or, I might more truly say, *elicited*, by the *good dispositions and good conduct* of my poor parishioners. In apportioning, therefore, the present bounty of the Committee, I shall take the liberty of stating, that it comes from London as a special token of approbation, and as a reward for the exemplary peaceableness of the people of Abington. And, I am confident, this simple statement will go far towards perpetuating and extending the spirit which now happily prevails among us. The value of such a spirit, the events of every day are teaching me to prize more deeply. In other, and neighbouring parishes, the worst outrages were, in the course of last winter, repeatedly perpetrated; and the unhappy dispositions which dictated those outrages are, I am sorry to say, by no means worn out. In such a time, it is much to have the population of a large district ready and willing to support the laws, and keep out bad intruders. During last winter, the services in this way, of the parishioners of Abington, were invaluable. Bordering upon, and, in part, embracing a chain of mountains, which separates the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, which abounds in fastnesses and impenetrable retreats, and which opens to the public disturber a communication with the most inflammable parts of the county of Tipperary, this parish may be said to have stood between the living and the dead, and staid the plague. Such services, I humbly think, have fairly earned the peculiar distinction shown by the London Committee. And, if I am permitted to dispose of the remaining £100, in the distribution of wheels and flax-seed, I conceive it may be so done, as to make a lasting and most salutary impression. The simultaneous dispersion of so many implements of industry, an event unprecedented in the "annals of the parish," will powerfully impress our most im-

pressible people; and, when they are led to regard this bounty as the reward of good conduct, known and approved at a distance, they will be influenced by it an hundred fold. So long as the wheels remain, (and this will, in many cases, be for twenty or thirty years,) the fact cannot be forgotten. But the tradition of it will remain much longer; and it may not be unreasonable to suppose, this tradition will carry down with it the germs of loyalty and gratitude to generations yet unborn. Thus much for the disposal of the money so kindly placed in my hands. As to the larger scheme, it may perhaps be within the power of the London Committee, before they close their valuable and most benevolent labours, to lay the *first solid foundation of the linen manufacture in the south of Ireland.*

*From Clareville, County of Limerick,
dated 27th July, 1822.*

I wish, also, to lay before the Committee, for their consideration, the advantages likely to result from the appropriation of a sum of money to be applied to the purchase of Linen Looms to be given to poor weavers, who are not able to provide the like, and by which they are prevented from earning a livelihood for themselves and families, and thereby are thrown a burthen on society; the advantages resulting from this would not be confined to the weaver and his family: it would extend to a much wider range; for every weaver fully employed works up a material which has given employment to at least six times the extent of his own, I mean in point of number of hands; so that the consequence of one weaver being kept at work, is, that at least seven hands gain constant employment, and this is without taking into account the assistance which the weaver's own family always affords him in preparing his yarn for the loom, &c. I believe there are some poor weavers who possess a loom, and have not the means of purchasing the material to keep it at work; the fund might be made applicable to such cases also, as well as to some who might require both. To illustrate my argument by fact, I lent a poor weaver about two years ago £5, and afterwards became security to the public loan for a similar sum, by which means he was enabled to support his family comfortably; he now keeps three looms at work, and he lately told me, and I have good reason to believe it to be true, that he had about £40 of his own earnings as a capital then in his business.

From the Rev. John Yeats, Drumcliffe, County of Sligo, July 31, 1822.

The spinning and manufacture of wool, as proposed by your secretary's letter of last night, would be highly useful—too much cannot be done in this way—I have already experienced the good effects of spinning, it affords for a given time more employment than any other work, and what is earned will generally be in proportion to the number of the family.

From the Rev. Thomas Mahon, Newport, County of Mayo, August 3, 1822.

I will take the liberty of mentioning to the Committee the case of a class of poor sufferers, whose misery will not cease even from the abundant harvest now promised—namely, poor weavers and artisans who from distress were obliged to dispose of their entire stock in trade, value from £2 10s. to £3; they have no potatoes planted, and are solely dependant on the market for their provision, and being deprived of the usual mode of earning, must perish for want when the present gratuitous relief ceases to be afforded them. If either by loan, or otherwise, the price of yarn sufficient for a web could be afforded to those poor sufferers, they would be enabled to support themselves and families by weaving, and thus be placed on a level with the cottagers who have their crops to resort to.

From Major General Bourke, Limrick, August 8th, 1822.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the third instant, which I laid before this Committee. They have received, with the greatest pleasure, the assurances it contains that the arrangements adopted by them have been satisfactory to the Committee of London. But I beg to observe, that neither to myself as an individual, nor to this Committee as a body, are any thanks due for the part we have taken in the relief of our suffering country-

men. It would have been extraordinary, if, when the whole English nation stretched forth their hands to relieve us, and when a Committee, composed of such eminent persons, devoted their valuable time to administer to our necessities, it would have been strange indeed if any co-operation in this charitable deed had been wanting on our side.

This Committee duly appreciate the benevolent spirit which dictated the letter I am directed to reply to, and they will thankfully receive from their English benefactors, the means of affording some increase of comfort to the very miserable peasantry of this county. If, during the late period of distress, the contributions from England have been thrown into one common stock with those of the Irish government, neither this Committee, nor the sufferers who have been relieved, have failed to distinguish between the spontaneous efforts of private benevolence, and the duty which every government owes to the people who have entrusted their affairs to its management.

On the mode in which the benevolent intentions of your Committee can most advantageously be carried into effect, and some increase of comfort, some permanent advantage be procured for the inhabitants of those districts where distress has so lately been exhibited in its most alarming form, I have, in compliance with your wishes, to offer the following remarks.

The subject is one of no small difficulty ; and, after much consideration, this Committee has directed me to state their opinion, that the employment of the poor, by the encouragement of some manufacture, offers the fairest chance of immediate, as well as future benefit. The linen manufacture is obviously that which should meet with this encouragement. Our local knowledge enables us to point out the mode of affording it. The offer of a bounty, however considerable, would probably not have the desired effect, at least, no immediate effect : to relieve the ignorant and desponding peasantry of this county, it will be necessary to conduct them step by step ; to supply the spinners with wheels and flax, and to take from them the thread as fast as it is spun, paying them immediately the price of their labour. In this way, and in no other, (for some time at least,) will they be brought to work : but in a family where there are one or two spinners, the weekly receipt of from sixpence to one shilling and sixpence, will not only procure a considerable increase of comfort to the industrious of this poor country, but will induce the idle and profligate to turn to a better course of

life. To effect this mode of relieving and bettering the poor, it is obviously necessary to appoint one or two charitable persons in every parish or district, to give out the wheels and flax, and to receive the thread and pay for it when spun. This thread, if not sold to weavers in the immediate neighbourhood of its production, may be sent to the Linen Hall in Limerick, where it will meet a market. The amount received for thread is to be immediately re-invested in flax, to be given out and manufactured as before. Here it may be necessary to state, what I have discovered by experience, that in order to give sufficient encouragement to the spinner, some loss will be incurred in this traffic. I have, since Christmas last, employed from fifty to seventy spinners, in the manner pointed out; and though the price I have paid for spinning has not been more than sufficient to produce threepence per day to a good spinner, giving up her whole day to it; or more than half that to the mother of a family, much of whose time is otherwise occupied, yet I have incurred a loss of full seven per cent. by the trade, or, in other words, when I have received £100 for thread sold at the Linen Hall, the raw material and manufacture have cost me £107. This loss, in the infancy of the manufacture, is not surprising: when the women shall have attained greater proficiency in the art, they will be able to produce a greater quantity of thread daily, so as to increase their gains, and the profit of their employer; and when the manufacture shall have reached this degree of perfection, it may then be advisable to withdraw all factitious aid, and leave the business to its natural course.

The London Committee will perceive that I have carried the manufacture no further than the production of thread. It would be too troublesome and too hazardous a speculation to employ weavers in the same manner it is proposed to do with spinners. But the best-informed merchants assure us, that, let the thread be produced in what quantities it may, a sale will always be found for it, and the looms kept at work in weaving it.

I have thought it necessary to trouble you with this long detail, as the subject may be new to the London Committee, and further, to show them that we have considered the matter in all its bearings. It remains to state the amount of assistance which may be required to carry this project into effect generally through the county. We have calculated that the sum of £2,500 will enable this Committee to set above two thousand new wheels at work, and to provide flax for many of those idle for want of this encouragement. In this

is included a sum for reels and hackles, and for providing a few looms in those districts where they may be wanting. All these implements (hackles excepted) can be made up here with advantage; the wheels at 7s. each, the reels at 10s. 6d. looms at £3 10s. Flax will probably be bought through the season at an average of 5s. the stone of 14lbs.

The knowledge which this Committee have obtained of the characters and dispositions of the several local Committees of the county, by the active correspondence they have lately kept up through its whole extent, will enable them to select proper persons to manage and promote this project for the encouragement of the manufacture of thread in their respective districts; nor do they despair of obtaining (in some places at least) some pecuniary assistance to the undertaking.

It will, perhaps, be proper to state to the London Committee, that the promotion of industry, and the improvement of agriculture and manufactures in the county, are the objects for which this Committee was originally appointed, early in the month of May last. The relief of the poor in the late trying season was subsequently entrusted to our care, and has totally occupied our time. It will be most gratifying to us to be enabled to turn our efforts towards the ends of our original institution; and with a power of promoting them, which we could never have hoped to obtain from the unassisted subscriptions of our resident and absentee gentry.

As the London Committee may have heard of the Linen Board of Ireland, it is necessary to state, that, except by the recommendation which we understand was made to Government, to distribute one thousand barrels of flax-seed, gratis, in this and the neighbouring counties, at a late period of the season, this county has, in the memory of the Committee, received no benefit from the institution. The trustees are all persons of ministerial appointment, and it has not happened that a single trustee has been selected from the inhabitants of this county, so that it has remained friendless and unassisted.

With respect to the clothing, which it is probable will be placed at the disposal of the London Committee, the distribution of some of the coarser and warmer articles would be of incalculable benefit to many of our poor. In another way, also, clothing may be obtained for many of those now in great want of it, and at no very expensive rate. When the distress, occasioned by the failure of the potatoe crop, was

beginning to be felt, in the last spring, many persons pawned the articles of dress least necessary in warm weather, and even their bed-clothes, to procure present subsistence. It is to be feared many of these poor creatures will never be able to redeem the pledged property. In such cases, to recover it for the unhappy proprietor, would be an act of most useful charity.

The manufacture for home consumption of coarse woollen frize for men, and flannel for women's petticoats, was, until lately, very flourishing in this county. *Old clothes*, imported from London, have, unhappily, superseded the use of the warm and decent frize, and given to our peasants in the neighbourhood of Limerick, in their flimsy and fashionable habiliments, the appearance of pickpockets or servants out of place. If the Committee had the means, they would willingly endeavour, by a small bounty, to revive the manufacture of frize, and beat the old clothes out of the market.

I have to apologize for the length to which this letter has extended. I have been anxious to give the Committee the fullest information on the points referred. If I have omitted any thing they may desire to know, I shall feel happy in being able to satisfy their future enquiries.

*Letter to Major-General Richard Bourke, Chairman
of the Distress Committee for the County of Limerick.*

Linen Board, September 20th, 1822.

Sir,

Forgive the liberty that I take in addressing you, through the medium of a printed letter, and believe me that I do so with the most sincere respect for your private character, a thorough sense of your many estimable qualities in social life, and above all, a cordial admiration of the active and useful manner, in which you have discharged the important duties that have lately devolved upon you, as Chairman of the Distress-Committee for the County of Limerick.

In this latter character you have recently made a public communication to the Committee for Irish Relief sitting in London, and when I take leave to remonstrate with you upon the terms in which you have described to the English people, in that paper, an establishment, to which I belong—

the Linen Board of Ireland—it is, because I am sensible that any representation you make upon the subject of your own country, must, from your late services to her, carry with it considerable influence in England.

The passage in your communication, to which I solicit your attention, is as follows :

“ As the London Committee *may have heard* of the Linen Board of Ireland, it is necessary to state, that, except by the recommendation which we understood was made to Government to distribute one thousand barrels of Flax-seed, gratis, in this and the neighbouring counties, at a late period of the season, *this county has, in the memory of the Committee, received no benefit from that institution.* “ The Trustees are all *persons of ministerial appointment* ; “ and it has not happened that a single Trustee has been selected from the *inhabitants* of this county, so that it has remained *friendless and unassisted.*” •

That the Members of our Board may be said to be “ *persons of ministerial appointment,*” is in some measure true, because we are appointed by the warrant of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but do you mean to infer from thence, that our body is composed alone of “ *ministerial persons?*” Surely it cannot be unknown to you, that some of the most distinguished Members of the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament are to be found among the most active members of our Board. To say “ it has not happened that a single Trustee has been selected from the inhabitants of your county,” even if the fact were so, amounts to nothing, because every member of our Board is required, by the nature of his trust, to promote the extension of the manufacture over which he presides, in every part of Ireland, but if you conceive the interests of the Linen Trade of the county of Limerick can only be protected by the Lord Lieutenant appointing to our Board “ *an inhabitant*” of your county, His Excellency could not find a more suitable member than yourself, or the excellent representative of your city, Mr. Thomas Spring Rice, and few circumstances could give me more hearty pleasure than to see either of you, on the first vacancy, taking your place beside me here.

The main point, however, of your statement, against which I mean to remonstrate, is contained in these few words :— “ *This County has, in the memory of the Committee, received no benefit from that Institution—so that it has remained friendless and unassisted.*” •

Suffer me to mention to you some circumstances, that I am sure were unknown to you, at the time you gave the authority of your name to this statement.

The Linen Trade of each of the four provinces of Ireland is under the care of an *Inspector General* employed in the service of the Board, who is bound to inquire into, and report to us, the wants and wishes of those who are concerned in it, and each county of the province has a *local Inspector* in it, who is required to attend all markets and fairs where linen and yarn are exposed to public sale, for the purpose of enforcing every legislative regulation connected with the welfare of the trade. The Reports of a former Inspector-General for your province, Mr. John Arbuthnot, and some from the officer who fills the situation at present, Mr. Peter Besnard, will show that the attention of the Gentlemen of the county of Limerick, has been often called to the tillage of Flax, and the extension of the Linen manufacture in that county.

There is reason to apprehend that some error of opinion has gone abroad with respect to the comparative encouragement given by our Board to the trade in the *North*, and the *South* of Ireland. Among those who are unacquainted with the facts, it has been said, that the province of *Ulster* has alone received encouragement by the distribution of utensils, while the province of *Munster* has been neglected. The following account, taken from a late Parliamentary document, will show how much that opinion is at variance from the fact.

“ Payments made by the Linen Board of Ireland for imple-
 “ ments of the Linen Manufacture, distributed through
 “ *Ulster* and *Munster*, in the following years.

“ Year ended 5th January, 1818,	{	Ulster,	£14	0	0
		Munster,	543	5	0
— 1819,	{	Ulster,	291	13	3
		Munster,	524	10	8
— 1820,	{	Ulster,	63	5	10
		Munster,	552	0	2
— 1821,	{	Ulster,	443	2	9
		Munster,	712	19	3
“ — 1822,	{	Ulster,	1,411	0	1
		Munster,	1,831	4	3

There is an annual grant of £3,000 made by our Board for the purchase of looms, wheels, and reels, which are equally divided between our Members, and distributed by them *individually* wherever they think proper. What proportion of those utensils, if any, may have gone into the County of Limerick, is not to my present purpose, inasmuch as I wish to confine myself to the acts of our Board *collectively*, which can alone determine our disposition towards your county. I pass over therefore any reference to that grant. I pass over too the different *Premium-Sheets* that we have published, seeking “to rouse the attention of the “Farmers, and landed Proprietors of the South, to the great “benefits to be derived from the cultivation of Flax and “Hemp, in *Munster*. I also pass over our efforts to recommend the exertions of a Committee in the County of Cork, “as an example worthy to be followed throughout the Province of *Munster*,” and our resolution, “to give every “aid in our power to such exertions, wherever they shall “appear.” I pass over, too, our different communications with the Government on this subject, expressive of our anxiety “to extend the Linen and Yarn Trade to the Provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, where the “resident gentry have lately begun to second our endeavours with a cordial activity,” stating the reductions we have made in different branches of our expenditure to collect the means of effecting this object. I pass, in short, over every thing calculated to show the desire of our Board to promote the Trade in the South of Ireland *generally*, and come at once to view the account of our assistance to the *County of Limerick* alone, which you have stated to the people of England, to have remained “*friendless, and unassisted.*”

Suppose we take up this account for the last five years :

The Salary we pay to the *Inspector-General* of your Province we cannot bring into *account*, so far as regards your particular county. His services, whatever they may have been, we must leave to you to appreciate. Mr. *James Fisher*, junior, a gentleman of your County engaged in the Linen Trade, speaking of this officer before a Committee of the House of Commons, says, “I can bear strong testimony “to the advantage resulting from the occasional visits of the “*Inspector-General.*”

	£	s.	d.
We have had for the last five years, and have now, a <i>local Inspector</i> in your county, at a salary of £40 per annum, that is	200	0	0
Of this officer the same Merchant thus expressed himself to the same Committee—" Our Limerick Yarn-Market is well conducted since the Trade began to wear a character of importance through the exertions of our <i>County Inspector</i> ."			
We made to the Chamber of Commerce in Limerick, two separate grants of £100 each, for the interior Machinery of Flax Scutch-Mills, upon the horizontal principle, so much in use among the Scotch. The proceedings of our Board record their* acknowledgments upon that occasion	200	0	0
We placed at the disposal of that Body, for three years, a Flax-Scutcher, from Scotland, to give instruction in the use of those mills, to whom we paid, in that period, for salary and travelling expenses	232	7	3
We gave to the same body 50 Wheels and 10 Reels, for general distribution, value	32	10	0
We also gave to them 8 sets of Flax-Hackles, at £4 a set.....	32	0	0
To the same body, we lately gave, towards enabling them to erect a Linen-Calender, a sum of.....	80	0	0
And to sundry individuals in your County we have granted, <i>generally</i> within this period, the following implements :			
134 Wheels, at about 12s. a Wheel	71	12	6
And 96 Reels and Runners, at 6s.	28	16	0
	<hr/>		
	£877	5	9

* At a Meeting of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Limerick, held on the 25th of October, 1817,

"Resolved,—That the best thanks of the Chamber of Commerce be given to the Trustees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of Ireland, for their liberal Grant of an Apparatus, so likely to improve a branch of Trade to which this immediate neighbourhood and County are so peculiarly adapted.

"Resolved,—That this Body will co-operate to the utmost of their power in forwarding the liberal intentions of the Linen Board, to pro-

The evidence of Mr. James Fisher, upon the subject of the Linen Trade of your County, taken before the Committee of the House of Commons, acknowledges the advantages derived from these grants, but declares at the same time, that, in his opinion, they are quite insufficient to meet the wants of the trade. I believe so too, and it is much to be lamented that the means of our Board are not proportionate to the large demands of the *South* on us, so that *all persons* might be satisfied.

But to a question and answer in that evidence, you must allow me to appeal against the testimony that you have given on the subject of our establishment :—

“ Q. Then you, as a manufacturer and as an individual, who have turned your attention to the subject, have no hesitation in giving it as your opinion, that the notice of the Linen Board has been of very considerable advantage to the Trade in the *South* of Ireland ? ” — “ A. Decidedly.”

The Public Boards of Ireland are not in much favor with the public men of England at the present moment. Be their faults what they may, they should not be exaggerated to our neighbours by any gratuitous act of injustice proceeding from ourselves. The Establishment of which I here speak has been lately the subject of inquiry before a Committee of the House of Commons, but upon any thing contained in the Report of that Committee, which gives, by the bye, a more favorable account of us than is to be collected from your letter, I do not mean to say one word ; nor shall I enter further into our defence.

Suffer me, however, before I conclude, to entreat your prompt interposition with the London Committee. Disabuse their minds of the effects of your late representation, and assure them, that from a better knowledge of the *facts*, the efforts of the County of Limerick, to introduce there, the useful branch of public industry, over which we preside, do not *now* appear to you, to have been altogether “ *friendless* ” and *unassisted*.”

Although I have the pleasure of your personal acquaintance, I prefer subscribing myself, as I have already stated,

A MEMBER OF THE LINEN BOARD OF IRELAND.

note in this part of the County the Staple Manufacture of Ireland, and thereby to provide employment for a portion of our numerous and indigent population.

“ Resolved,—That our President be requested to transmit a Copy of these Resolutions to James Corry, Esq. the Secretary of the Linen Board.

“ JOHN CARROLL, Secretary.”

*From Major-General Bourke, Limerick,
14th October, 1822.*

Having been called upon by a member of the Linen Board in a public letter, to correct an error into which he complains I have fallen, and to lay before the London Committee a representation upon the subject of the Linen Board of Ireland, different from that contained in my letter to you of the 8th August last, I think I cannot act more fairly by my unknown and friendly correspondent, and the Board of which he subscribes himself a member, than by enclosing to you a copy of his letter, together with such remarks on its contents as appear to me necessary for the complete elucidation of the subject.

Dr. Johnson, I believe, somewhere observes on the subject of misrepresentation, "If I say that an orchard has no apples, and that some groping fellow afterwards discovers two or three under the trees, am I to be accused of misrepresentation?" But to proceed to the matter in question. I observed in my letter of the 8th of August, with respect to the Linen Board of Ireland, that "except by the recommendation which we understood was made to Government to distribute 1000 barrels of flax-seed gratis in this and the neighbouring counties, at a late period of the season, this county has, in the memory of the Committee, received no benefit from that institution. The Trustees are all persons of ministerial appointment, and it has not happened that a single Trustee has been selected from the inhabitants of this county." I am free to confess that at the time I wrote this paragraph, I was not aware that the machinery of the Scutch Mills lately set up in this county, and valued at £200, in the account furnished by my unknown friend, had been granted by the Linen Board to the Limerick Chamber of Commerce. This latter body having expended above £800 upon these mills, and having at all times appeared not only as the promoters and directors, but as the actual founders of the mill-scutching process in this county, I had unwarily but naturally taken up the idea that the whole cost of the work had been defrayed by their funds. The introduction of mill-scutching will, I am convinced, be a benefit to the county, and any contribution, however small, to such an improvement, should be thankfully received and acknowledged.

When I mentioned the Linen Board in my letter to the London Committee, I felt, and I still feel, that the beneficial influence of that institution has been very imperfectly experienced in this county. This I mainly attribute to the want of resident Trustees; and this being the point at issue between my unknown friend and me, I will take the liberty briefly to explain to you, Sir, the constitution of the Linen Board, to the imperfections of which, and not to any dereliction of duty on the part of the eminent persons who compose it, I attribute the want of encouragement which the manufacturers of linen have experienced in this county.

The Trustees of the Linen Board of Ireland are, as I stated, persons of ministerial appointment, being usually selected and named from amongst the friends of the Government, by the Lord Lieutenant and Secretary of the day; and I have heard it observed, that these appointments are objects of particular solicitude. There are a certain number named for each of the four provinces of Ireland, and as vacancies occur in the list of each province, they are filled up without any regard, as it should seem, to the connection of the Trustee with the province for which he is named; hence it becomes a matter of uncertainty whether any given county of the kingdom, however large or populous, shall have a Trustee in anywise interested in its welfare, or rather who is not more interested in the welfare of some other district. Without meaning the slightest disparagement to the Linen Board, it may not perhaps be too much to say, that the concerns of the district which is fully and fairly represented, are most likely to be carefully managed, and that *vice versa*, the county which has no friend at the Board may, in the course of time, suffer from that circumstance. A county so situated is likely to be made sensible of its forlorn condition, not only by the general arrangement of the Board, but by being deprived of that share of encouragement and bounty which each individual Trustee has the power of affording. By the constitution of the Linen Board each Trustee is allowed annually £41. 10s. to procure looms, wheels, and reels, to be disposed of wherever he pleases. It is not unnatural to suppose that the Trustee resident in Londonderry for instance, will be more inclined to give his wheels amongst his tenants and poor neighbours in that county, than to send them to Limerick for distribution; and however my unknown friend may undervalue this eleemosynary grant of implements, it appears from the evidence of a Noble Marquis before a select Committee of the House of

Commons on the Linen Trade in the last sessions, that the advantage of these grants is very considerable even to those districts of which his Lordship speaks, where the linen manufacture has been long and successfully established. The Marquis of Downshire says, that "the gratuitous distribution of wheels by the Trustees of the Linen Board, ensures their distribution among persons properly qualified to use them; that it is very useful to his tenants. That to a poor woman, or a poor family containing a number of daughters, the having two or three wheels in each house is a very great advantage to the trade, because there is a great quantity of yarn manufactured by them." Of how much greater importance must such a grant be to a county where the manufacture is but in its infancy, where its advantages are scarcely felt, and where it requires the fostering care of all who are anxious for its success to make even the smallest progress towards perfection. "But let this subject be examined from the account of my unknown friend. He states that in five years the Linen Board granted 290 wheels and reels to the county and city of Limerick. This is an average annual grant of 58. Now the annual grant to each Trustee is in money £41. 10s. for which sum a Trustee resident in this county, and willing as it may fairly be supposed to encourage the linen trade in his vicinity, might procure and distribute amongst his tenants and poor neighbours 120 good wheels and reels, or more than twice as many as the collective bounty of the whole Linen Board has dispensed to this county for each of the five last years. Under this one head of implements therefore it is evident, that the county loses considerably by having to depend upon the liberality of the entire body of absentee Trustees, in preference to the anxious paternal care of one resident.

"The child whom many fathers share,
 "Has seldom known a father's care."

But as my unknown friend has brought the constitution of the Linen Board before the public, he will excuse me if I go one step further in the matter of reform, and insist that with one resident Trustee this county would still be short of its right. There are in the Register for 1822, the names of 74 Noblemen and Gentlemen Trustees of the Linen Board. There are 32 counties in Ireland, supposing two to be named for each, and the remaining ten Trustees distributed one to each of the most populous counties, Limerick would have

three Trustees ; and thus would be in the way of obtaining annually, in the gift of wheels and reels alone, more than six times the encouragement it has had the good fortune to receive during the last five years ; a period which, having been selected by an advocate and member of the Board, is, I suppose, not the most unfavourable to his views.

That by the original constitution of the Linen Board, some such geographical distribution of Trustees was intended, is I think evident, from their being still allotted to provinces ; and that a reform in the manner of nominating Trustees is wanting, is proved by the actual case of Limerick, and may be inferred from the consideration of the present state of Ireland. The Marquis of Downshire in his evidence before the Committee already referred to, says, "The Linen Board were appointed before the Union. The principal Nobility and Gentlemen of property were then, and have been since, nominated as Trustees. In those days Ireland had the advantage of the residence of nearly all its landed proprietors. Dublin was then the resort of all the fashion and all the distinction belonging to the island ; at present it is exactly the reverse. The greatest difficulty exists to get a Board, as the expression is ; very few members attend constantly, and it has not unfrequently happened, that what has been proposed on one day has been rescinded on the next."

By a careful selection of Trustees, some from amongst the principal linen bleachers or buyers, as the Noble Marquis suggests, and by allowing to every county in Ireland one or more resident proprietors as its representatives at the Board, much of the evil here complained of, would without doubt be remedied.

Having thus briefly remarked on the constitution of the Board, I trust my unknown friend will not take it amiss if I offer a few observations on the items of the account which he has brought in against the county of Limerick ; an account which shews on the face of it, that for the last five years there has been an average annual grant of £175. 9s. 1½d. to the county and city of Limerick, containing a population of 280,328 persons, by a public body receiving an annual parliamentary subsidy of £21,000 ! But let the items of this account be examined. First of all, we are debited £200 for the salary of a County Inspector. I am happy at having it in my power to say that the conduct of the officer now in possession has given general satisfaction ; but is his appointment to be considered as a particular boon for the encourage-

ment of our manufacture, or as one of those ordinary acts of patronage which the Linen Board are empowered to exercise, and which it is usually not found difficult to persuade any Board to perform ! This officer is a part and parcel of the Linen Board establishment, and as well might we be charged for our share in the Secretary and Clerks in Dublin, as with the salary of one of a class of officers regularly named time out of mind to every county in the kingdom.

The next item of the account is the sum of £200 for the interior machinery of two scutch mills. The history of this grant is, I am informed, as follows. In consequence of a representation by that intelligent and zealous officer Mr. Inspector-General Besnard, of the exertions made by the Chamber of Commerce of Limerick for the encouragement of the trade, by the distribution of wheels and reels, and by bounties on linens, the Board ordered one set of scutching machinery from Scotland, which on arrival was found to be so badly executed, that the Chamber ordered the machinery for two mills to be made up here, for which they were reimbursed by the Linen Board some time afterwards. And here it may be proper to observe, that the Limerick Chamber of Commerce have, in the last five years, expended £824. 18s. 4½d. on these mills, and on charges incidental to them.

The next item is £232. 7s. 3d. for three years salary and travelling expenses, paid to a flax scutcher from Scotland. I am ready to admit the merit of good intention in the appointment, but this was another unlucky importation. A grant is not always a benefit, and this distinction must, I apprehend, be made in this case. The fact is, the Chamber of Commerce found it necessary to get rid of the grant, to prevent the business of the mill from being totally lost. Had there been but one inhabitant of the county with a seat at the Board, it is hardly possible that the amount of three years salary in this case would have appeared in the account. Nor is it fair to charge the amount of the miller's services, such as they were, to this county alone ; during the time of his appointment he was very frequently sent by the Linen Board to different parts of Munster, and even into Leinster.

On the amount of the distribution of wheels and reels, I have already submitted a few remarks. I may however be permitted to add, that the whole expenditure for wheels and reels distributed by the Linen Board in this county for five years, amounts to but £122. 18s. 6d. In the same period the Chamber of Commerce have distributed 353 single

wheels, 45 double wheels, and 76 reels, the cost of which amounted to £174. 4s. 3d.; and in premiums on linen, linen yarn, flax, &c. this body has expended £308. 11s. 8d.

The remaining items in the account are the hackles and calender. The former, a regular appendage to all scutch mills. For the latter the Chamber of Commerce applied to the Linen Board through Inspector-General Besnard, and obtained a grant of £80 towards that object, the Chamber of Commerce undertaking to bear all the other expenses in building and fitting up, &c. This object has not yet been accomplished, nor the money received.

I have been thus particular in stating the great exertions made by that very meritorious body the Limerick Chamber of Commerce for the encouragement of the Linen Trade, as it serves to shew that for the last five years, the period selected by my unknown friend, there existed within the county an anxious desire to promote that trade. In addition to the exertions of this public body, I could name several individuals who have been at considerable pains to establish this valuable manufacture. They have in some measure succeeded, as the increased activity of our market demonstrates, but wheels, reels, and looms, are still wanting. The expense of procuring these implements in numbers, for gratuitous distribution, is too heavy for individuals; and the profits of the spinner as yet too trifling to induce our poor cottagers to make such an inroad into their small means, as the purchase of one wheel would occasion. Applications have, within my own knowledge, been made to the Linen Board for grants of looms and wheels, but from some circumstance or other *they have not been generally successful.*

As the observation contained in my letter of the 8th August, was made solely with the view of convincing the London Committee that, notwithstanding the existence of the Linen Board of Ireland, their interference for the encouragement of the manufacture would be neither superfluous nor intrusive; so I beg it may be believed that the remarks I have now ventured to make upon the constitution of this body, are offered with a view to its permanent advantage, by shewing how it can be made more extensively useful; and in the hope of benefiting this part of Ireland, which is on every account entitled to my best exertions, by calling the attention of the Government and Board to its situation and wants. In this latter attempt I am but repeating the sentiment of the select Committee of the House of Commons, who conclude their report in these words,

“ Your Committee cannot close this report without again impressing on your consideration the very great importance of the linen manufacture to the prosperity of Ireland ; and that in their opinion it is the duty of the Trustees of the Linen Board, by every possible means, to extend this manufacture to the south and west of Ireland, for wherever it has obtained a footing, industry, moral habits, contentment, and tranquillity, have followed.”

I must beg leave to take this way of expressing my warmest acknowledgments to my unknown friend, for the very kind manner in which he has been pleased to mention my humble attempts at being useful during the late difficult period. His kindness has induced him to value them much too highly. With respect to the subject matter of his letter, however we may differ on some points, I feel certain that we have equally the good of our country at heart. For the benefit of the manufacture in which we are both so much interested, my friend has kindly desired that I had a place beside him at the Linen Board, for the furtherance of the same object ; but upon my own peculiar principle of improvement, I sincerely wish that he had a seat in this county.

P. S. Since I wrote the above I have learned with great satisfaction, that the Earl of Clare, a resident proprietor of this county, has just been appointed a trustee of the Linen Board.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
9th August, 1822.*

Last night brought me your letter of the 3d instant, enclosing a resolution of that day passed by the Committee, that £200 should be placed at my disposal to be invested in the purchase of wheels and reels, to afford profitable labour to the women of the distressed districts immediately under my care.

It will be with the greatest pleasure I shall immediately dispose of this sum, which your Committee has confided to my care for the specific object mentioned in the resolution in question. There is nothing more likely to be generally useful to Ireland than relief afforded in aid (from the sowing of the flax, to the use of the linen) of our linen manufacture, which, although at this moment it is labouring under great depression to my own knowledge, yet I cannot but most sanguinely look forward to its again prospering, and again be-

coming the creditable support of thousands. This is an object worthy of your humane consideration, and one upon which in the poor and pitiful alms which I am able to afford from my large family, I expend the largest proportion.

And now I pray your Committee (to all appearance this season of famine and starvation being nearly at an end, our merciful God promising to us a most bountiful harvest) earnestly, but with the utmost deference, to be cautious and circumspect in your future remittances for the amelioration of the condition of our most miserable and unhappy people; in your future operations there is no necessity for great haste, nor any danger in a few days delay; satisfy yourselves of the utility of what you may be disposed to do, and then be fully assured of the fidelity, the zeal, the judgment, and the firm and indefatigable perseverance of the persons, into whose hands you commit the direction of the plan for our relief which you may think proper to adopt.

Much of the money which you have now placed at my disposal for the purchase of wheels and reels, shall be expended in extension of this kind of relief already established in several parts of the County of Mayo; and in this I shall call to my aid some humane and benevolent ladies who are already engaged, as far as their means will allow them, in promoting this source of industry among their poor women.

Should you think proper in any considerable degree to extend this most useful scheme, I should venture to recommend the following course. Wheels and reels in the first instance to be given, then a sum of money to be invested in the stocks, the produce of which to be lent in very small proportions to the poor for the purchase of flax, to be regularly repaid by small weekly instalments; and a further sum to be invested in like manner, to be lent to weavers either to purchase looms or yarn, it also to be repaid by weekly instalments. I do not presume to dictate to your Committee, which (under Providence) appears to know better than we ourselves, what we want, but I venture to suggest, in compliance with your desire, what appears to me likely to be beneficial to a very large proportion of our poor population.

*At a Meeting of the Local Committee of Newport,
County of Mayo, 9th August, 1822.*

Resolved,

That this Committee do take advantage of the presence of Mr. Brearly, Agent to the London Tavern Committee for relief of the distressed Irish, to represent the state of a large class of the suffering poor of this parish, who are literally likely to fall victims to want, the moment the gratuitous relief now afforded them is withdrawn ; namely, the poor weavers, who under the pressure of famine were obliged to dispose of their capital to support existence. This class of people have no crop, nor any means of procuring subsistence but from the market. That if those people had the means of purchasing a web of yarn, they would be enabled to earn a weekly sum sufficient to maintain them, and thus be restored to those habits of industry which alone can make them useful members of society.

Resolved that Mr. Brearly be solicited to represent the case of this class of our suffering poor to the London Tavern Committee, and that they be requested to appropriate a sum of £500, to be placed in the hands of a Committee of the merchants and respectable householders ; who will thus be enabled to grant by loan, a sum of money to each weaver, to enable him to commence his trade, and which sum is to be repaid to the Committee by instalments, and thus keep up a most beneficial fund. Upon a rough calculation we have above 250 poor creatures who are situated as we have before described, and we are of opinion that the sum of £500 will be necessary to afford them relief, which will in the humble opinion of this Committee be the most effectual and lasting mode of disposing of the relief which the London Committee may be pleased to afford the poor in this district of the West of Ireland.

*From Mrs. O'Donel of Seamount, County of Mayo,
9th August, 1822.*

Mrs. O'Donel suggests the benefit that might be effected to the poor of the neighbourhood, by establishing a fund for purchasing flax to be given out to spin, when spun, to be sold for the support of the fund ; by this means, at a comparatively trifling loss, a considerable number of poor creatures might be employed, and habits of industry inculcated, that would prove of lasting service to the peasantry.

From Mr. Thomas Phelps, Dublin, 13th August, 1822.

I take the liberty of troubling you with the enclosed, and I shall esteem it a favour if you will lay the same before the City of London Tavern Committee, understanding it is their wish and intention to promote industry and comfort among the Peasantry of those parts of the South and South-west of Ireland where they are little known.

At the same time I think it right to mention, that I had the originals laid before his Excellency our Lord Lieutenant in July last. I learn it is doubted, whether the Act of Parliament under which a large sum of money is placed at his disposal, warrants him to make such a distribution as I point out.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Phelps, Graignoe, County of Tipperary, dated 10th June, 1822, addressed to William Gregory, Esq. Chairman of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to promote the employment of the Poor in Ireland.

I shall make no apology for addressing you thus publicly on a subject of great national importance. Our first consideration in seeking the means of affording employment to the poor of Ireland is to render, as far as may be practicable, the labour of our people the medium whereby to supply the demand for our own consumption of those articles which are imported from other countries. I do not mean at present to recommend any preference to be given generally, to Irish above English or even Foreign manufactures, unless where such preference may consist with the interest of the consumer: but in the particular case which shall form the subject of this letter, a slight exertion on the part of the Committee, of which you, Sir, are the head, would suffice to combine the interest of the individual with those of the whole people.

It is stated in a report of a Committee of the Royal Dublin Society, presented 8th February, 1820, founded, I presume upon satisfactory evidence, that a quantity of worsted yarn of £300,000 in value, is annually imported into Ireland. It is also ascertained that a quantity of linen

yarn, to nearly the same, or perhaps equal amount, is annually imported from Germany to supply a constant demand for this article in England and Scotland. Now, Sir, if the statements here set forth be correct, and I believe they are, it requires as I have before stated, but a moderate exertion to enable the poorest and the most helpless of our people, to provide the respective articles alluded to, in sufficient quantity to supply as well our own consumption as that of Great Britain; thereby affording the means of immediate, permanent, and profitable employment to the male and female peasantry of the South of Ireland, a part of the country, where for want of manufactures of some sort, the people are, during a large portion of the year, unemployed, the evil consequences of which are so obvious, that it is unnecessary to dwell upon them here. The materials which form the two articles I have mentioned, can be produced in Ireland in any quantity that may be required; and besides supplying the demand for worsted and linen yarn, to the limited extent before mentioned, we might be brought to save a quantity of Flax-seed sufficient to obviate the necessity of importing that article from Russia, Holland, or the United States: and it might, I have no doubt, ultimately enable us to grow the important article of hemp in sufficient quantity to supply our own wants, and thus render us independent of importation from the North of Europe.

To enable us to produce in the South of Ireland the article of worsted yarn, it is only necessary to make a liberal distribution of wheels, reels, and woollen cards among the poorer peasantry. The article of wools is there already in abundance. It is a lamentable fact that the great majority of the females are destitute of wheels and reels, although possessing a very general knowledge of spinning. I have often been surprised, that in the county of Tipperary, the women should have so generally acquired the knowledge of spinning, without any established manufacture; but it is a fact which I have ascertained in my endeavours to introduce the spinning of coarse linen yarn where I reside, or had any influence; and have often admired with what eagerness these poor industrious people will go a considerable distance on the chance of borrowing a wheel.

From my knowledge of the linen business, having lived in the midst of it in the county of Down for more than thirty years, and from my observation of the province of Munster, if the sowing of flax was more generally introduced into the South with a sufficiency of wheels and reels, (I allude particularly to the improved wheel, the invention of Mr.

Bernard Coile, for which he received the thanks of the Dublin Society, for their superior utility and abridgement of labour, and being equally well adapted to the spinning of flax and wool) in a short time we would see industry and comfort, in place of idleness, illegal meetings, and disturbances; and in place of taxing the counties for special commissions, prosecutions, &c. against a peasantry prone to industry, if properly assisted, we should have peace, content, and subordination, the necessary and constant attendants on industry.

There is no where to be met with a more industrious people than the peasantry of Munster, or who grasp so eagerly at employment in any shape. The women will work the year through, wet or dry, at field labour, without diet, for fourpence per day, and the men for eightpence, (but even that is precarious, as is the case in my neighbourhood, in the Barony of Middletherd.) Besides their employment in the field, the women continue to make time for knitting, (even as they come to and go from work) and whilst employed at other domestic offices.

Can they be accused of idleness? No—it is solely the want of means that keeps the women as well as the men unemployed; for unless the husband or male in the family is able to procure a little flax or wool by his labour, after the necessary food, potatoes alone is paid for, and that the female can borrow a wheel, to make clothing for the family, they must be destitute of raiment; indeed, in many instances, both now and for years back, they have been at night compelled to seek shelter in the most inclement seasons, under the same clothes which cover them by day, and these often damp.

There is not a doubt but flax-seed can be saved as easily in Ireland as wheat, oats or any other grain, together with the flax. This is a point of the utmost importance to the country, as the general impression is that either the flax or the seed must be sacrificed. My brother has saved for the last three years several hogsheds of seed from which, when sown, there have invariably been produced as good crops as were from foreign seed, (with the exception of one very dry season.) And the flax on which it grew is preferred to that from which no seed had been saved. It is only necessary that the flax should be longer steeped in water, and afterwards kept a longer time on the grass than the usual time allowed for these purposes, when the saving of seed has not been attended to.

In consequence of increased attention to the mode of preparing the flax, and the introduction of scutch mills, the Irish flax from Munster begins to supersede the Russian flax in Liverpool, although formerly it would scarcely be bought for rope-making. I am confident Ireland might be made to enjoy a very considerable trade in hemp, flax, flaxseed, and spunyarn now carried on to the exclusive benefit of foreign countries. I mean the south and south-west of Ireland, where so much ground remains to be cultivated.

The manufacture of coarse yarn in Munster would not interfere with the Linen Trade of the north of Ireland, where the article is so much finer, and where they are obliged to pull the flax greener and before the seed is quite ripe. I doubt very much if any part of the world can produce so good coarse flax as I have seen in large quantities in some parts of Munster, and it is a pity we should not avail ourselves of these advantages Nature has so generously thrown in our way.

My object is, to endeavour to enlist our leading men, who have a direct interest in the peace and prosperity of the country, to give their aid to the introducing of those branches of trade and manufacture into Ireland, which would be a permanent and an increasing source of employment to a large portion of our population, bringing relief home to every cottage; and instead of colonizing foreign lands, Ireland would soon be able to support double its present population. At the expense of about one pound for each family, a supply of wheels, reels, and cards might be obtained, which would afford such an addition to their means of obtaining an industrious livelihood as would render them in a manner independent.

Copy of a Letter sent to the Editor of the Dublin Morning Post, by Mr. Thomas Phelps, and inserted in that Paper, transmitted to the London Committee.

Sir,

Will you have the goodness to give insertion in your valuable paper to the following hints, on the subject of flax, they may be useful, if attended to, to the farmers in the south and west of Ireland:—As soon as possible after it is pulled, let it be steeped in soft water, and kept there from six to eight days, or until the fibre strips freely from the reed, or woody part; this can easily be known by drying a few stalks before a fire, and if on rubbing it the reed is found brittle, and breaks freely, it is watered enough; if not, let it remain in the water until brought to this state.

The object to be obtained by steeping the flax in water, is to dissolve the gum or mucilage, which prevails in its composition, and to decay the reed. By the farmers attending to this simple process, they may make their crop of flax an article of traffic as eagerly sought for as wheat; and it is from a neglect of this part of the process, that it cannot be made marketable in the south or west of Ireland for export.

If the intention be to save the seed and flax, let it be pulled whenever the top of the capsule or seed-bud shews the least sign of declining vegetation; put it into sheaves, stooks, &c. and treat it as oats, taking care to thatch it well on all sides until Spring; care should be also taken to put it up free from damp, and that any grass remaining in the butts of the sheaves should be well decayed to prevent heating.

(Signed) THOMAS PHELPS.

*Graignoe, County of Tipperary,
July 20th, 1822.*

By the Custom House return to the House of Commons, on the 23rd April and 7th May, 1819, the quantities of flax, flax-seed, and linen yarn, imported in Great Britain in the year, ended the 5th January, 1818, was as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
426,258 cwt. or 21,312 tons of undressed flax, at £70 per ton.....	1,491,840	0	0
1,897,139 bushels of flax-seed, at 13s. 4d.	1,264,758	0	0
39,404 cwt. of linen yarn	197,020	0	0
There was also imported in that year, 33,020 tons of hemp, at £50 per ton	1,651,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£. 4,604,618	0	0

This article during the war, was £150 per ton.

Hemp, flax, and flax-seed imported into Ireland that year.

Hemp, 22,974 cwt. at 34s. per cwt.....	39,055	16	0
Flax, 4,449 cwt. at 40s per. cwt.	8,898	0	0
Flax seed, 72,855 hhds. at £4 per hhd. ..	291,520	0	0
	£. 339,473	16	0

Making a total imported into the United

Kingdom, for one year, of..... £. 4,944,091 16 0

An extensive diaper manufacturer whom I met the other day in the Linen Hall, told me if he could get it of good quality, he would take himself 40,000 spangle of two-hank yarn, or 160,000 hanks, which quantity alone would give a permanent employment to 533 women for 300 days annually, reckoning each woman to spin one hank per day.

T. P.

N. B. The flax to be steeped a few days longer in Spring, after the seed is taken off it.

From the Lord Bishop of Limerick, 16th August, 1822.

It appears to be a general complaint among the women in that neighbourhood, and wherever else in this county I have been able to get good information, that they are unable to apply themselves to any profitable industry in consequence of the want of wheels. To lend them wheels and reels, so marked that they could neither pawn nor sell them, appears to me to be a very useful charity; and indeed I do not see any other way in which habits of industry can be promoted, or the immense population of this country enabled to procure support for themselves, except by extending the linen manufacture.

*From the Rev. John Scymour, Tipperary,
19th August, 1822.*

The best mode, indeed the only one, that at present occurs to me, as likely to serve the labouring men and their families most effectually, is to give their wives and daughters employment, by supplying them with wheels and reels as far as may be, and flax and wool to spin. They would thus be engaged in honest active industry within doors, while their husbands and brothers were at work without, and would soon feel the value of their employment in obtaining comforts, to which many of them are strangers, from their industry, by either clothing themselves and children, or if they preferred it, by selling their thread, &c. at this, the neighbouring town, Tipperary, where they would always find a good market for them. My own experience urges me to propose this as the best mode of permanent, as well as present relief, as I have found it to be so myself in the limited way in which I have, from time to time, tried it in an union of many poor parishes. It has been always thankfully received, and in general usefully applied.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
21st August, 1822.*

In my opinion, if clothing our naked people, and at the same time encouraging industry, is an object you are decided upon, the only way of well accomplishing it, is to make a market, by buying the articles of the people's wear, which of course, as far as it goes, must encourage the'r industry. Here no fraud can be practised; you are not bound to the article; you buy it with your eyes open, and you need not buy it if it be not good. Upon the subject of the linen manufacture I wrote before; spinning and weaving I am sure could be greatly encouraged in the way I in a former letter described, and I am confident that as much good would be done to our poor in this one way as in any other branch of industry. I have ordered wheels and reels to be made in twenty different parts of this county, in some places fifteen, in others twenty, and in others thirty; this, as far it goes, will do much good; it is the course I myself take about Tuam, it is one by experience I know to be most useful, and (could I afford it) I would extend it to the whole county, and I feel a moral certainty that I would succeed. I speak only of one plan for doing a large part of our population a permanent service.

*From the Rev. Henry William Cobbe, Moydow,
County of Longford, 22d August, 1822.*

Great and effectual relief has been afforded to a vast multitude of poor people, which has safely brought them through a very trying season, and of which I shall be ready to give a detailed account, if required by the Committee. The object of the present letter is to solicit the further aid of the Committee for another and a very desirable purpose, which I now take the liberty of laying before you. Before I left Ireland, being well aware that want of employment was the great cause of the distress in my parishes, and that our Poor Fund would not be sufficient to do more than supply meal at a reduced price to those who had money to purchase it, leaving a vast number without the means of obtaining suffi-

cient relief, I ordered a large quantity of flax to be bought at my expense, and left directions with my agent to advance money to any amount that might be required, so as to provide constant work for all the spinners and weavers in the two parishes who might be out of employment. Limited as my income is, I had no hesitation in doing this, knowing that when the immediate distress was over, I could by the sale of the yarn and linen, reimburse myself at (comparatively) a very trifling loss; in short, I became for the time a wholesale yarn and linen merchant. The advantages of this have been beyond my hopes. I find upon my return more than 600 spinners, and upwards of 60 weavers, continually at work, the greater part of whom have been employed for the last three months; thus not only enabled to purchase provisions for their families, but acquiring habits of industry which, if the system could be continued, would go far to banish pauperism from both the parishes; but this unfortunately cannot be; it must, therefore, now that the immediate and unusual distress is removed, be given up, and the entire stock sold off. This I shall witness with very great regret, and I have already spoken to several gentlemen of the two parishes, to join me in a subscription for the establishment of a fund to keep the system in continual operation, engaging a person properly qualified for the business, to manage all the details of buying, selling, and distributing work, and making regular reports to a Committee of the subscribers: they have expressed their willingness to assist me in this object, but after the great exertions which they have lately made for the relief of the poor, I grieve to say that there is no chance of obtaining a sufficient fund even to maintain the business in its present state, still less to enlarge it, and to put it on such a footing as to become a permanent source of parochial relief; under these circumstances, I take the liberty of addressing myself, through you, to the London Tavern Committee, and of soliciting their assistance. The object is a great one, and the benefit certain; it has already been tried with the most complete success, and I beg leave to observe that the relief which any specific sum may afford, is not, as in most other cases of merely a temporary nature; the money is in continual circulation, and literally in a circle, the flax which is purchased from the grower is immediately given to the spinner, the yarn spun by the spinner is immediately given to the weaver, and the linen woven by the weaver immediately sold at the market, and more flax purchased with the money.

*From Thomas Spaight, Esq. Corbally, County of
Clare, 28th August, 1822.*

I had the honour of receiving your letter enclosing £25, sent by the Committee of the City of London Tavern, for the purpose of buying wheels to be given to the females of the parish of Cloony; this liberal grant will not only give employment to the females of the families, and provide them a substantial clothing, but also be a means of living to weavers, whose distress for want of employment has for some time been very great. I shall suggest to the gentlemen of our Committee the propriety of selling the wheels at the reduced price of about two shillings each, and of applying the money thus got in giving wool gratuitously to many families, who were unable to sow flax-seed, and who have not the means of buying wool at any price, and who consequently are in a most destitute state to resist the winter's cold.

*From the Secretary to the Ladies' Association, Sligo,
29th August, 1822.*

Trusting in the benevolent kindness with which you have attended to and relieved the wants of our distressed population in the town and neighbourhood of Sligo, we feel induced to make a request which as Ladies we never could presume to trouble you with, were it not for the liberality we have already experienced; and therefore beg leave to state for your consideration, that upon the late melancholy visitation of Providence amongst the poor of this place, a few friends who were in the habit of visiting their miserable habitations observed, that in most instances where poverty wore the saddest appearance, total want of employment appeared to be the sole cause; and that if some plan were devised, by which the females could be enabled to earn a subsistence, much benefit would follow. Immediate application was made to the gentlemen of the Committee, who had the management of the funds for relieving the poor, and a quantity of flax was procured by them to be put under the care of such ladies as were anxious to be employed in the distribution of it. Upon our first proposing industry to the poor, they were in general unwilling to make any exertion for themselves; but as soon as the benefit was witnessed, in those who were paid for their work, an increase of applications has

continued to the present day, and such thankfulness expressed by the poor creatures, as far exceeds what we have ever experienced when they have received relief gratis; but the only thing which interferes with the full benefit which would otherwise arise to the poor from a continuance of this employment, is the want of wheels and cards which they are quite unable to purchase, and must remain totally idle without. Instances have come to our knowledge of a poor woman's anxiety being so great to take a part in her neighbour's industry, that she has walked 12 miles to borrow a wheel, and has been obliged to give it up without spinning more than 8 cuts of yarn, for which her utmost payment could be but 2d, and then returning the flax she had got to spin, with tears of regret, at the impossibility of her procuring a wheel to enable her to help herself. Numerous instances of widows and orphans, similarly circumstanced, having been presented to our notice, we earnestly solicit some means, by which it may be in our power to supply those wants, that render the poor incapable, though willing to become industrious.

From Dr. Elmore and Richard Deasy, Esq. Clonakilty, County of Cork, August, 1822.

The grand importance of encouraging the coarse linen manufacture of this district is so evident that it scarcely needs illustration; we have a demand greater than the supply, the raw materials grown on the spot, the turning of the superabundant labour of the soil into money, in short the misery of a fine people into if not affluence at least into those comforts and necessities of life, so indispensable to the order and well being of the state, which may be strongly exemplified by the fact, that during the late disturbances, and during all our distress, the weaver was not found in the ranks of rebellion, or sunk in the abyss of surrounding want.

It has been omitted to state in this memorial a local grievance arising out of the retail of flax-seed, which particularly affects the poor. From their inability to purchase seed for cash payments, they are obliged to purchase from the shopkeepers on credit, for which they are charged generally from 50 to 75 per cent. additional, over what the article is sold for by those same persons when they received cash. Any remedy to this would be of a two-fold importance; first, in relieving the poorest part of the community from a most usurious exaction, and next would extend the growth and cultivation of so useful an article of general employment and manufacture.

*From the Right Hon. Lord Carbery, Castlefreke,
County of Cork, 5th September, 1822.*

Could any report of mine have had influence on the decisions of the London Committee, it would exactly have brought them to what they are. Nothing could be more judicious than the manner in which the great balance in hand has been appropriated. If any objects of national industry can be successfully promoted in the south of Ireland, they are the yarn and linen manufacture, and the fisheries; and I have no doubt both can be prosecuted to great extent, and with great advantage. You will see by the advertisement which I take the liberty of enclosing, that we have revived a linen association in this county, and I am happy to say with every expectation of its being conducted with spirit and perseverance, if we can obtain sufficient funds. Our object is to get such a capital as we can invest, and apply the interest annually in aid of local exertions, calculating, and with a degree of certainty, that funds will by that means be drawn from the pockets of individuals, who without such a stimulus would never make any exertion. I trust the proceedings of the meeting at Cork for the encouragement of the linen trade, and the revival of the association, will attract the attention of the London Committee, and that it will obtain for us a portion of the sum so liberally and wisely appropriated to the same object. We have also, as you perceive, memorialized the Lord Lieutenant, for it is in vain to disguise it, we must be beggars. Experience has at length fully taught us, that temporary aids are nearly useless, and that to succeed we must look to permanent and persevering exertion. Were I worthy to advise I should recommend that whatever sum, if any be given, to encourage the linen trade in this county, it should be placed in the hands of the Linen Association. Its Committee has been carefully selected, and I have no doubt will act most conscientiously; its objects will be those most generally useful and practicable; in truth it requires only care and attention in them to nourish the seed already sown.

At the time of holding the meeting in Cork we were not apprised of the decision of the London Committee, and it was left to the Committee of the Linen Association to address that body, which I am sure it will do immediately, and I trust with success.

At a Meeting of the Noblemen and Gentlemen interested in the advancement of the Linen and Hempen Manufacture, in the County of Cork, held at the Royal Cork Institution, the 27th August, 1822,

Right Hon. EARL OF SHANNON in the Chair,

Resolved—

1st. That from the depressed state of Agriculture, and the greatly augmented numbers of our population, it appears clearly to us, that the mere cultivation of the ground cannot give employment to all the labouring classes; but that there is a large surplus proportion of them for whose employment other means must be resorted to.

2d. That it appears to this meeting, that there exists a great source of wealth and useful employment for our population in a more extended cultivation of flax and hemp, and the manufacture of coarse yarns and linens.

3d. That it further appears that a linen association has existed in this county, for some years back, and that although their exertions have been attended with some advantages, these advantages have fallen far short of what they would have been had the association possessed funds in any degree adequate to the objects it had in view.

4th. It therefore appears to this meeting that some decisive steps should be forthwith taken for laying before his Majesty's government the state of the Hempen and Linen Manufacture of this county, the incalculable advantages which may be derived from their extension, and the indispensable necessity of pecuniary aid for its accomplishment.

5th. That this object can in no way be pursued with better prospect of success than by most respectfully submitting a memorial to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, on this important subject, and that the Linen Association be hereby requested to prepare and forward such memorial.

6th. That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the Linen Association should continue its exertions, and that in order more fully to carry them into effect, a Committee of twenty-one landed proprietors be now appointed, to whom the management of the concerns of the Association be committed; that this Committee do pledge itself individually to attend monthly meetings, and that any member of the Committee absenting himself for three successive meetings, shall be considered as having vacated his place, and that another gentleman be named by the Committee in his stead.

7th. That a General Meeting of the association be held at each assizes, the day to be appointed by public advertisement, and that the Committee do prepare a report of its proceedings to be laid before such General Meeting at such assizes.

From Dr. Rhynd Lawder, Fenagh, Ballinamore, County of Leitrim, 6th September, 1822.

I have now, Sir, to make a statement, which, if it meets with the approbation of the Committee, will, I trust, gain from them the power of my carrying it into execution, and I have no doubt of the results being both usefully and honorably satisfactory, both to the Committee and the people engaged, viz. Were a sum of £100 or £150 vested in the hands of our Local Committee for the employment of the poor in the following manner (particularly the tradespeople), viz. That 'small sums out of this shall be lent, returnable in the shortest possible period, and these paying a small interest at each return, to be credited to the general account, by which means it would accumulate and afford constant means of employment to an industrious number of poor. I have calculated that £10 or £15 will keep thirty-three weavers at work for three weeks, by lending each weaver £1 : 10s. to be returned with three-pence interest; the loan to be again renewed, and a security given for its repayment. The amount to those thirty-three will be £49 : 10s.; the interest will be (if my calculation be right), for three weeks, 7s. 6d., a sum which the borrower will not feel, and he will be well repaid by the profits. For the remaining £56 : 5s., one hundred and twenty-five women will be employed for three weeks, lending to each the sum of 7s. 6d. to buy flax, which person will pay one penny every third week, when she will be obliged to renew her engagement and security, by which there will be an interest of 10s. 5d., a sum not to be missed by the individuals, but which ultimately will produce a fund tending to the advantage of the poor themselves; as upon the £49 : 10s. the annual interest will be £6 : 7s. 9d.; and upon £56 : 5s. about £8 : 17. 1d.; thus one hundred and fifty-eight poor families will be kept in constant employment, and the original sum will accumulate. Should the London Committee entrust the Committee for this parish with the sum mentioned, we will render them a statement of the account every three months, or oftener if required.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
9th September, 1822.*

As to the Seventh resolution of your Committee, I am clear that the simplest and most effectual mode of operation under it, is to extensively distribute wheels and reels ; to vest in proper security small sums of money in various parts of the country for the purpose of affording loans to poor women to buy flax, and also to weavers to buy looms and yarn. These loans to be repaid by small weekly instalments. I have seen in one or two instances the happiest result from this course. I do not pretend to speak upon this subject in reference to any other part of Ireland except this province of Connaught.

*From the Rev. Michael Collins, P.P. Skibbereen,
County of Cork, 10th September, 1822.*

At a meeting of the Local Committee of Skibbereen on Saturday last, it appeared from the Treasurer's account, that a balance of £40 or £45 would remain in his hands after the final discharge of all demands on the Committee then due ; and it was suggested that the mode of disposing of this balance most beneficial to the poor and most likely to afford them permanent relief, would be to vest it as a fund for a charitable loan to enable poor tradespeople and other poor dealers to carry on their business by making them advances of small sums of money, to be repaid at such periods and on such terms as may be prescribed. Such a fund, if provided, would afford means of industry and support to many poor families in this town who are still in distress, notwithstanding the unexampled abundance of the potatoe crop, and the consequent cheapness of provisions. There are many poor linen weavers possessing looms, at present unemployed, whom a loan from week to week of two or three pounds would enable to keep their looms at work by furnishing them with the means of purchasing linen yarn at the weekly market held here, and who would always be sure to find a ready money market for the produce of their labour, at a market for unbleached linen held weekly at Clonakilty sixteen miles from this place. The distress endured by many of this class

during the late dearth, deprived them of their little capitals, and of the means of carrying on their business.

Another class of poor persons equally entitled to sympathy are poor industrious females, who, if supported with the means of buying flax, or if furnished from time to time with small loans of flax, might support themselves and their families by spinning it into yarn, for which there is always a steady demand in this market.

On maturely considering the subject, the Committee were of opinion, that with the small balance on hand it would be altogether impracticable to establish a fund for this purpose likely to realise the wishes of the Committee, or the hopes that may be excited, unless it were from the outset encreased to at least One Hundred Pounds, and with that impression, it was agreed to submit the project to the benevolent Gentlemen of your Committee, in the hope that, should it be approved of, they may be pleased to grant us the means of carrying it into effect.

The Memorial of the Dowager Countess of Ormonde and Ossory, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Castlecomer in the County of Kilkenny, 13th September, 1822.

That the Linen manufacture, which was first introduced into this country in the year 1819, under an experienced manufacturer from the North of Ireland, has been productive of consequences peculiarly favourable to the industry and moral improvement of the inhabitants.

That the cultivation of the raw material, to which the soil of this country is particularly adapted, being the only basis on which the Linen manufacture can be permanently established, the most unremitting attention has been paid to this pursuit. A flax-mill has been erected—schools for spinning and weaving established, in which the youth of the country are gratuitously instructed, and an extensive bleach-green also completed; thus combining every facility and advantage in the several departments of this important and national manufacture.

That in the population of this district, which is immense, combining in the aggregate nearly thirty thousand souls, many are at present destitute and a burden on society, who by employment could be rendered useful and industrious

members. In extending more fully the blessings of industry, memorialists feel deeply interested, and peculiarly so in the establishment of that manufacture so easy of acquirement and congenial to the habits of the people, affording employment to every age and condition, and assuring to the industrious the means of support when works of another description, from season or circumstances, must consequently be suspended.

The ground work for extensive manufacture has been laid, and every expenditure in machinery completed, but the funds of the establishment are not adequate to that extension of employment which the peculiar situation of the country and the necessities of the people require. The undersigned therefore earnestly solicit, through the medium of this establishment, such aid from the appropriated funds of your Committee for the encouragement of the linen manufacture and employment of the poor, as you may conceive the extent and importance of the undertaking to merit.

*From A. B. Rowan, Esq. Tralee, County of Kerry,
September 14th, 1822.*

It appears that although the dressing and manufacture of flax is a general occupation (in which they are said to excel) among the women of Kerry, yet that they are indifferently provided with very indifferent wheels (frequently two or three families dependant for employment upon one wheel), that much benefit to the poor would result from a distribution of flax, wheels, and reels. That should it be thought advisable (though this Committee does not at all recommend it) to employ women for hire in spinning thread for coarse linens, which is the usual and most beneficial manufacture for this county, three-pence per lb. would be fair wages for their labour.

That if it should be thought advisable to furnish to the spinners a supply of flax and wheels, and to the weavers, of looms, that flax is usually purchased at 4s. 6d. per stone, fit to hackle, that there are excellent makers of wheels throughout the country, from whom wheels may be purchased at from 7s. 6d. to 8s. each. That looms are priced at from three to four guineas each. There appears to be a deficiency of hackles throughout the country. Weaving is a general trade, but has little employ.

When these necessities have been supplied it appears, that on the establishment of a market for the sale of fairly manufactured thread and linen, these articles may always obtain a demand; it therefore appears indispensably necessary that legal markets for the sale of yarns and linens should be established in the principal towns, that the people should be made acquainted with the necessity of manufacturing their article under the restrictions of the linen laws, and with the penalties applicable to their infraction.

It seems clearly the opinion, that farther than these encouragements, no public body should interfere with the market, at the same time that the regulations of the linen laws should be strictly enforced. With respect to the appointment of a certain purchaser for any linen coming into market, in order to prevent disappointment or loss to the manufacturer, it appears wholly inadvisable.

The manufacture of fine linens should by no means be encouraged, because it is impossible that we can ever compete with the north of Ireland in that article.

It appears that though, as a means for bettering the condition of the poor, the encouragement of the linen trade should be our principal object, yet that for the purpose of providing clothing for our peasantry, it is advisable that a manufacture of coarse cloth, applicable to that object, should be encouraged.

At a Meeting of the Central Committee of the County of Sligo, Owen Wynne, Esq. M.P. in the Chair, 16th September, 1822.

Resolved,

That having had the benevolent intention of the London Committee, to appropriate the sum of £40,000 to the encouragement of the growth of flax and the manufacture of coarse linens in the South and West of Ireland communicated to us, we take the earliest opportunity of expressing our opinion, that no possible application of this sum could conduce so much to the permanent relief of the poor of this county, or could prove so great an incitement to industry as the encouragement of this manufacture, which has been for some time introduced into this part of Ireland, and has contributed more to the employment of the lower classes, particularly of women and children, than any im-

provement that has been hitherto adopted ; and that we earnestly hope that the Committee, in their appointment of their bounty, will be pleased to consider this county and the adjoining county of Leitrim, where the linen which is manufactured is of that coarse sort which the Committee seems to be desirous of promoting, and where it cannot fail of giving the best sort of relief.

*From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo,
16th September, 1822.*

It is perhaps needless to inform you, that the only way in which effectual relief can be given to the Irish peasantry is, by furnishing them with permanent employment. As was stated in the outset of our exertions, we consider the late distresses as arising principally from want of labour. The aid you have proposed would cherish habits of industry among our poor, instead of allowing them to loiter away the greater part of their existence in idleness, and it would also place within their reach the means of supporting themselves, instead of their being obliged to look for subsistence to the charity of others.

In towns especially, would the encouragement of linen manufacture be of essential service to the lower classes. In the country parts, agriculture, and the cultivation of their own plots of ground, furnish a considerable proportion of the poor with employment and means of subsistence, but those who reside in a town have no such resource.

I may perhaps be permitted to observe, that the manufacture of coarse linens, such as we understand you recommend, is precisely that kind of spinning and weaving to which our poor are accustomed. To encourage this branch of the trade, would by no means interfere with the interests of our fellow countrymen in the north.

*From the Lord Bishop of Killala, County of Mayo,
19th September, 1822.*

In your letter of the 25th July you were pleased to express the wish of the Committee to be informed whether if encouragement were afforded, the poor now destitute of clothing could be employed in spinning and weaving coarse woollen articles for winter covering. I immediately ordered the wool of my sheep to be given out to such families as were likely to spin and manufacture it, in small quantities of sixteen pounds each, at the price of four shillings less than the currency of the country, to be paid at a future day (if ever). I am assured there are now several pieces of frize in the looms, and good warm stockings preparing. This kind of domestic manufacture, for home consumption, is the only one I should desire to encourage, on many accounts. There is also a great deal of coarse linen made here of a tolerable good quality. I would wish there was a fund to give small premiums in our weekly market, for the best wrought pieces of linen and the best spun yarn brought to market, I think the quality of both would be much improved.

*From Hugh Walsh, Esq. Drumsna, County of Leitrim,
24th September, 1822.*

As our soil is particularly calculated for the growth of flax, and our population well acquainted with the manufacture of it, they do not hesitate to recommend encouragement of linen and yarn manufacture, in preference to any other; and wishing to supply the want of capital, and to avoid gratuitous distribution, they propose the following plan. That a sum of money be vested in Trustees hands, the same to be lent to weavers and spinners at a small interest, to be repaid by instalments, monthly: the interest is intended to cover loss by bad debts and other incidents.

*From the Venerable Archdeacon Jebb, Abington, Glebe,
Limerick, 2nd September, 1822.*

Sir,

Your most obliging favour of the 19th *ultimo* was one, in common justice to the object which the London Committee has at heart, not to be answered hastily. Meantime, the subject has not been out of my thoughts; and, by making inquiries in various quarters, I have tried to obtain the best information to be had.

Your letter embraces three inquiries. 1. Whether it may be in my power to extend *more widely* my plans for furnishing employment, upon receiving further aid for that purpose? 2. Whether I can favour the Committee with the names of any friends of mine who would undertake to carry similar measures into beneficial execution? 3. Whether I can afford any advice respecting the principle and mode of applying the balance in the hands of the London Committee in the most useful manner?

1. To the first inquiry, I beg leave to answer, that, while most anxious to co-operate with, or rather, to act under, the London Committee, I am apprehensive that, in attempting to widen my sphere, I might only diminish my usefulness; that, in the effort to do too much, I might do all badly. And, on this principle, I should not feel justified in undertaking any extension of my plans, beyond the parish in which I live, which is a very large one.

2. I have, in some degree, anticipated my answer to the second question. Those who are best fitted to promote industry, and manufacture especially, in their respective neighbourhoods, will, I conceive, be brought into action most beneficially, through the agency of some constituted authority to whom they shall be responsible for the detail of their proceedings; such, for example, as the newly-established "County of Limerick Agricultural Society."

3. I shall now endeavour to offer those suggestions which have occurred to me, respecting the principle and mode of applying the balance in the hands of the London Committee, to the best advantage.

The principle, I think, should be, to do at once the most permanent, and the most extended good in your power. Now that alone, in aiding the population of a country, is permanent good, which will encourage, and gradually enable them, by honest industry, to provide for themselves:

and, on this principle, (except in cases of urgent calamity, like the occasion which called forth the unexampled liberality of England this year) gifts of money, of food, of clothing, are I conceive to be deprecated, especially where the Irish are concerned, in whom it should be our great object to elicit and cherish, what, from long mismanagement, is deplorably wanting among us—a spirit of independence. And again, that only can be extended good, which is administered by those, who can raise themselves above party interests, and feel for the welfare of a community, instead of giving themselves to a system of local petty jobbing. The attention of the county of Limerick Agricultural Society, I find, is particularly directed to encourage the growth of flax, the spinning of yarn, and the manufacture of linen. And they will, I presume, be the best instrumental agents for diffusing the disposable bounty of the London Committee, in the manner best calculated to promote the increase of industry among our peasantry.

But, with a view both to permanent and extended benefit, I have an additional plan to suggest, which, I am sure the Committee, whether they shall adopt it or not, will receive with their wonted indulgence. It does not seem to me enough, that aid towards the purchase of flax, flax-seeds, spinning and weaving implements, &c. &c. should be distributed through the different parishes of this country. To introduce a new manufacture, which to all intents and purposes the linen manufacture here is, we want, in some one or more places of the county, an establishment, that shall be at once experimental and exemplary: experimental, to ascertain the best mode of manufacturing; exemplary, to exhibit the beneficial effects of that mode, and gradually to induce, and extend its adoption, throughout this county in particular, and the south of Ireland in general. Such an establishment I will endeavour slightly to sketch; preparing my way by a few introductory observations.

It is notorious, that the arts both of spinning and weaving are, in this country, at a very low ebb. A northern spinner can perform, in a far better style, three times the quantity of work that a southern spinner can: the proportion between the performance of northern and southern weavers may be taken pretty nearly at the same rate. This is the general testimony of the lower orders themselves. I have ascertained it by repeated inquiry; and the testimony is the more remarkable, as the force of prejudice, and attachment to old and bad habits, are in this part of Munster particularly strong. Again, in preparing flax by the operation of scutch-

ing, the peasantry herabouts are very unskilful: while, if their skill were ever so great, it is generally known and felt, that the operation cannot be performed so effectually by hand as by machinery. Flax scutched in the mill manufactures more fairly under the hackle, affords a greater produce of available material, and that material regularly sells for one shilling per stone more in the market, than flax scutched by hand. This is the general voice of the country.

Now putting these facts together, it follows as a consequence, that the introduction of scutching-mills, of spinning-schools, and of weaving-schools, is indispensable, in order to bring the south to the level of the north, in the article of the linen manufacture. And it seems most desirable, that, in some one or more places, an establishment embracing all those objects should be set on foot, by the way at once of experiment and of example. If then the London Committee agree with me, and if their surplus funds allow of it, I would respectfully propose to them the formation of such an establishment in this parish.

In a former letter, I mentioned that the Limerick Chamber of Commerce has built a scutching-mill, dwelling-house for the miller, store-house, &c. in this parish of Abington. This establishment is, I find, now proceeding tolerably well, and with some further pecuniary aid, and especially with a proper local superintendence and controul, it might be rendered most extensively useful. The miller should have an increased salary; and, for a time at least, the price of scutching should be reduced to the people. The spinning-school, and experimental weaving establishment, might be carried on with more advantage apart from the scutching concern. And there happens to be a large building, admirably adapted for both purposes, which might either be purchased for a moderate sum, or taken for a term of years at a small annual rent. To this parish, and this building, had we sufficient funds, I should wish to bring a northern family of good character, industrious habits, and ascertained skill and experience. The husband should be a weaver, and should have five or six looms constantly employed; hiring, as journeymen, and successively, so as to diffuse the art, to young weavers of this country, whom he might institute in the most approved northern modes. The wife and daughters of this man should be expert spinners, of good temper, and popular manners, and these I would employ as the conductresses of a spinning-school; nor have I a doubt that, in various other respects besides spinning, in

the introduction of cleanliness, order, decency, and generally improved habits, such a family might become a blessing to this country. The house to which I allude, is large and lofty ; and would readily admit the divisions necessary to keep the spinning and weaving departments altogether distinct and separate.

The matter of finance, the most important of all, now comes to be considered. In the first place then, I have reason to believe, that the Chamber of Commerce would liberally come forward ; would first make over their concern to proper trustees, and then contribute a sum annually to the support of the institution. As to further supplies, I could wish provision to be made for permanence. It is a notorious failing of my countrymen, that they undertake with spirit, indeed, but seldom persevere. And the funds which, at the commencement of any plausible scheme, are apt enough to overflow, are too soon dried up. To guard against this, if the Committee could allocate, for the permanent support of the proposed establishment £3000, the interest of that sum, would, without trenching on the capital, amply suffice, not only for carrying on the mill and the schools, but also for providing premiums for the best spinners, and weavers ; one important, and indeed indispensable part of the plan, which I had almost omitted—the premiums to be given, not in money, but in flax-seed, flax, wheels, and occasionally looms.

As to the management, I would place it in the hands of a body of trustees, such as the President and some one leading member of the Chamber of Commerce, and General Bourke, whose assistance in all such matters is invaluable. I should also beg to propose myself, and my friend and co-adjutor in this parish, Mr. Forster, as trustees for life. We may not be permanently ministers of Abington ; but our attachment to it, and interest in its welfare, can cease only with our lives.

It is not the least advantage derivable from the plan which I propose for consideration, that the trustees, by themselves, and through a confidential agent, might continually inspect the progress of spinning, and weaving, and growing, and dressing flax, throughout this parish ; and, by the patronage and rewards in their disposal, might afford a powerful stimulus to industry, neatness, good order, and thereby, to that improved moral tone, which is the invariable result of such habits.

Such a plan would, I confidently trust, be at once experimental and exemplary ; would shew what is attainable,

and would induce others to press forwards towards the attainment.

The sum of £3000, I grant, is large; and the amount would unquestionably be too great, if it were allotted for the advantage only of a single parish. It is, however, to be considered, that the benefits of the scutching-mill, even in its present less improved condition, are extended to a great distance; flax is already brought to this mill from places 10, 15, and 20 miles distant. And, what I consider yet more important, is the indirect and incalculably progressive benefit derivable to the whole county, perhaps even the whole province from the example of one plan, in which improved modes of manufacture may be successfully adopted.

More on this subject, I will not now add, than that I shall await respectfully, but not without a deep and lively interest, the decision of your benevolent and enlightened Committee.

It is but right for me to say, that the people of this country are overflowing with gratitude to their English fellow-subjects. More, I trust, has been done in this single year than in past centuries, towards a real union of the countries. One little anecdote I will mention. My friend Mr. Forster, in a ride the other morning, fell in with a party of our peasants. One man said, "but for the English, the people would have perished in the ditches, and we should now have a plague in the country." Another, a venerable old man, then, calmly, but with profound emotion, said "God bless them for their goodness!" and, after a short pause, added, "and He will bless them!" These are the very words, and this is but a fair specimen of the prevalent feeling.

It is, perhaps, too obvious to be mentioned, and yet it is so important that I cannot help intreating attention to the fact, that, by the proposed disposal of £3000, so much money will be preserved in perpetuity, for the furtherance of any other good purpose hereafter, whether this should fail, or whether, as it is rather hoped, it should be so effectually answered, as to supersede the necessity of any factitious aid to manufactures in this parish.

*From Thomas Browne, Esq. to the Most Rev. Dr.
Oliver Kelly, Tuam, 30th September, 1822.*

My Lord,

As your Grace has requested that I should put upon paper any remarks I could make upon the documents forwarded by the London Tavern Committee, relative to the promotion or establishment of the Linen Manufacture in this county, I here submit all that my best consideration of the subject has enabled me to say.

The portion of the £40,000 granted by that benevolent Committee for this object, I suppose, will be considerable for *this large county*, which has suffered so much from the late calamity, and whose population even in the best of times, are proverbially the poorest of any in Ireland; and I should think it most advisable, to throw almost the entire into charitable loan establishments throughout the county, as recommended by the Committee, and which corresponds, I believe, exactly with that over which your Grace presides in this town, with the exception of the system of loans; the Committee recommending three months for the payment of the first instalment, and monthly payments after, until the whole is paid off, with interest, within the space of one year, whereas your Grace requires weekly payments, and the whole to be paid within nine months without interest. Your Grace's plan I think best adapted for our poor, as I apprehend they would be unable to pay interest, and if they had three months for the first instalment, they might forget their debts altogether, and particularly as your Grace's establishment has been found, by experience, to succeed better than any other I know or hear of, I should think it would be imprudent to deviate in any material degree from its present system. I should recommend giving flax and wheels gratis to some poor widows and families, many of whom from age, poverty, or other causes are unfit, or unable to follow any other industry; but the plan of giving flax to the poor, and paying them for spinning, I think liable to inconvenience, as a committee could scarcely guard against bad spinning; besides nothing in my mind can operate as a stronger incentive to good workmanship, than the price to be obtained for the thread in the market, which is always proportioned to the degree of excellence they are enabled to arrive at. Our linen manufacture seems even in a more

backward state than that of the county of Limerick, as described by Archdeacon Jebb; there is no such thing, I believe, as a scutch-mill in this county; and the linen made with us is of that low description which seldom meets with sale in Dublin, except when there is a demand for sheeting for soldiers' barracks, or occasionally for negroe clothing for the West Indies. If it would be adviseable to expend a large sum in the establishment of a better linen manufacture, I dare say the introduction of the scutch-mill, and of a north country family, recommended by Archdeacon Jebb, would be desirable; but this draws me into further considerations.

When I reflect upon the great encouragement afforded by government, through the Linen Board, by bounties on exportation, &c. and the great interest taken on behalf of the trade here, and indeed in every place, and that notwithstanding our weavers are the poorest people we have, and that when we have flax for eight-pence per pound, and thread for nine-pence and ten-pence, it will be seen that our poor women cannot earn more than from one penny to two-pence per day, by the business; while our dealers in linen constantly complain, (particularly since the demand for barracks, has in a great measure, ceased) that they have large quantities upon hand, and of it being a very unprofitable trade: such being the real state of the case, I do not see the use of adding to the supply in the market, when it is already overstocked with the article, and the prices not remunerating the different hands now engaged in the manufacture; and sale of the article cannot be expected to be bettered by adding to the superabundant supply, and it would be really severe to encourage other poor people to engage in a trade, when we find it difficult to support those who follow it at present; besides, in our imitating the north country manufacture, I should be apprehensive we might make a description of linen, for which there would be no demand at all, or at best only injure the industry of that part of the kingdom, which perhaps stands in need of assistance. In fact, my Lord, it strikes me that this part of the country is not sufficiently advanced in the rude art of agriculture, to think of establishing any thing like manufactures, and on that account I should wish that the loan establishments were not exclusively for the benefit of the linen manufacture, but were extended to every poor man of industry, allowing him such credit as may be reasonable, considering his trade or occupation.

From John Godley, Esq. Killigar House, County of Leitrim, 1st October, 1822.

The plan of assisting the poor, by encouraging the linen manufacture, is certainly the best that can be adopted, and is peculiarly suited to the circumstances of this part of Ireland. I have long been in the habit myself of lending small sums of money for the purpose of purchasing looms, which the borrower's repay by instalments, and I have found great benefit to result from so doing. Of course the benefit will be much greater, when the system is carried on on a larger scale.

From the Right Hon. Lord Clonbrock, Clonbrock, House, Galway, 2nd October, 1822.

The encouragement of the Linen Manufacture is certainly one of the most obvious modes of ameliorating the condition of the poor in the south and west of Ireland. In this county, the progress already made in it enables the greater number of the lower order of tenantry, to manufacture a sufficient quantity for home use; and the overplus either of linen or yarn frequently pays a great portion of their rents. Those who have the smallest portions of land, generally manage to cultivate some flax, and are occasionally supplied by their landlords with utensils, when they are themselves unable to procure them. Any fund which will increase these resources must be beneficial; but I own I foresee great difficulty in establishing a system of *loans*, with any tolerable security for repayment, and I almost fear that offers of aid, under such restrictions, would in many instances, rather slacken, than stimulate, the exertions of a people so much involved in poverty and debt.

*From the Venerable Archdeacon Jebb, dated Abington
Glebe, County of Limerick, 24th October, 1822.*

I have already procured from wheelwrights resident in my parish, 151 wheels at 7s 6d each, and 13 reels at 6s. each; the whole cost being £60 10s 6d. Of this, however, I retain one-third in my hands, having stipulated with the wheelwrights for the retention of so much, till the implements shall have been three months in use; a plan which, while it secures the quality of the work, will prove ultimately beneficial to the workmen; these deposits are, in some degree, a substitute to the poor men for a savings' bank, and they are already sensible of the advantage; conscious, that, if the money were not thus reserved for them, they would already have expended it themselves.

It is felt and admitted that the manufacture of wheels in this parish is already brought to a great pitch of improvement. And, (what I particularly rejoice at) the wheelwrights are proud of their improvement, and appear at once satisfied with themselves, and grateful to their employers, for the advance which they are making, and the character which they are acquiring.

I have drawn up regulations, which I require all persons employed here, in the manufacture of wheels, to subscribe and adhere to. They have been found very useful; and I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of them; as possibly the London Committee might think it advisable to direct the attention of the several Boards of County Trustees to this matter. The prices must, of course, vary with the circumstances of different counties; but I conceive that regulations formed on the same plan, might be serviceable if generally adopted.

*The engagement underwritten to be signed by all
Wheelwrights employed to supply Wheels and Reels.*

We do hereby engage to furnish wheels to
at the rate of seven shillings and sixpence
each ; the stocks to be of ash, the feet of ash, or Irish oak ;
the standards on which the rim bears of ash, Irish oak, or
elm ; the rims of Irish oak, sycamore, chesnut, or elm ; the
flyers of ash ; the spools of ash, or elm, the other parts to be
made of any good and proper timber ; and the entire of fully

seasoned wood. Each wheel to be $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches clear in the diameter of the rim, and 16 inches in length of the stock. Every wheel must be submitted to the inspection of _____ and have _____ approval before it is received.

We also engage to furnish reels with clocks, of the largest size, and most substantial make: the materials to be ash, elm, or Irish oak, fully seasoned; the price six shillings each; and the reels subject to like inspection with the wheels.

We do also promise and engage, to attend to such directions, as from time to time, shall be given us by _____

or by any other persons who shall be named to us as superintendants or inspectors: it being understood, that our wheels and reels shall, before they are received, and for one twelve month after, be subject to whatsoever additional inspection _____ may please to appoint.

We do further engage to keep in good and sufficient repair, for the space of twelve calendar months from the time of their delivery, such wheels and reels as we shall respectively supply to _____

And we do hereby agree to the following terms of payment: viz. That two-thirds of the price be paid on the delivery of our wheels and reels, and the remaining third to be kept in the hands of _____ for three calendar months after said wheels and reels shall have come into actual use, by way of security for the just performance of the above articles. The third part of the price so detained, to be paid at the expiration of said three months, provided the wheels and reels shall have approved themselves on use.

*Report from the County of Limerick,
28th October, 1822.*

Whilst in Dublin I attended the Linen Board, and understood from the members present, that any of their officers who could advance the objects of our Trustees should be directed to co-operate with them in their respective counties.

Conceiving that the experience to be drawn from the charitable loan societies would be useful and important, I visit-

ed, in company with Mr. Hyett, the establishment incorporated by statute, in St. Annes parish, Dublin, and had the satisfaction to find all the views of the Committee supported by the history of that charitable loan. For the last five years no difficulty has arisen in the management of the fund. During the three last years the loans have all been repaid, and during the two years preceding the sums in default did not exceed 11s. The Meath charitable loan, where I attended during a day's repayment of money was equally well managed; no losses were sustained, and great punctuality and fair dealing were manifested by the poor. The managers of both establishments stated their regret, that by the constitution of their societies they were not enabled to charge interest on the sums lent, as they conceived that there would be no greater difficulty in obtaining the repayment of £1 : 1s within the year, than the mere repayment of £1.

All these observations were highly satisfactory, and were fully supported by an inspection of the accounts of two charitable loans at Limerick, the particulars of which shall be hereafter communicated to you.

From Dublin I proceeded to Limerick, and was gratified at perceiving the great abundance of the late harvests throughout the entire of the midland counties. Potatoes varied from 1½d to 2d and 2½d a stone of 14lb. From the time I entered those parts of the country which had shared in our distribution, I endeavoured to trace whether much land remained uncultivated. This did not appear to me to be the case, nor from my subsequent enquiries do I conceive it probable that many acres have been allowed actually to remain waste. But a considerable breadth of land prepared for potatoes has I believe been sown with grain, the result of which altered cultivation it is important to consider. The increased growth of potatoes would have added so much directly to the food and comforts of the peasantry; the increased growth of corn only adds so much to the rent of the landlord. The peasant cannot exchange his superabundant grain to make good his deficiency of potatoes, as his landlord stops it in transitu for the rent due to him.

I also attended to the clothing of the peasantry, and so far as their general appearance to the eye, it is by no means much worse than on average years. But when the interior of their cottages is considered, and above all the bed clothing, a lamentable deficiency I fear exists, which the grant from our Committee will be but incompetent to relieve. Still the appropriation of our balance, by promoting the industry of the peasants themselves, will perhaps bring a supply of clothing

within their reach in a better and safer way than had a more extensive effort been made generally to supply it.

The details of our plan, and our system of account, requires much consideration, but I submitted a form to the Committee likely to be approved of. We determined on the following principles, which I trust may meet the approbation of the London Committee. We have fixed on eight principal stations throughout the county, for the distribution of loans in implements, &c.; each of these is to be visited at fixed times by the clerk and store-keeper. Committees will be formed at each for the purpose of receiving applications and re-payments, and keeping regular accounts; the distribution to be carried on by them under the controul of the Limerick Committee: if any of these local Committees give security for the re-payment of the principal and interest in the manner specified by us, the wheels, &c. to be placed at their disposal. The only modification which I wish to suggest to this plan is, that for the first month we should confine ourselves to three or four places only, and that when we have succeeded there, we should extend ourselves further till our entire county is studded with these little domestic establishments for the promotion of industry.

My attention was called to the state of the linen trade in the west of the County of Cork, where it has protected those who were engaged in it both from distress and disturbance. The state of the manufacture is as follows:

Year ending 31st December, 1821.

Market.	Pieces.	Yards.	Value.
Clonakilty	9582	1,178,374 . . .	25,251 15 0
Cork			14,488 1 10
Bandon			5,948 17 6
Dunmanway			3,788 0 0
			<hr/>
			£49,476 14 4

The sales in the Clonakilty market for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the present year, amount to £24,830 2s 6d, and nearly equal the entire sales of the year preceding, and the last quarter will probably increase in a still greater proportion. There is a scarcity of yarn, and a great want of implements, combined with an anxiety for employment requiring no stimulus or excitement. The increase of the trade of Clonakilty has chiefly taken place within the last five years, Lord Shannon having been three times obliged to add to the size of the market place; the trade has been much improved by the establishment of a salesmaster, or officer of the linen board, and

the market is now so well known that it is frequented by Scotch buyers, and considerable purchases on commission are made. Above 500 looms are at work at Clonakilty, 200 at Ross, and about 140 elsewhere: each of these looms giving employment to from 8 to 10 spinners, earning on an average three-pence a day. The description of linen manufactured is the same alluded to by Mr. Oldham, being imitations of the German platillas $\frac{3}{4}$ wide.

I next visited the bleach grounds and manufactory of Messrs. Besnard, one of whom, the Inspector General, I had the honour of making known to our London Committee. I there saw the platillas worked and made: they are a slight coarse fabric averaging eight-pence per yard brown, and ten-pence half bleached.

I have already stated that the general experience derived from the loan charities throughout Ireland, is favourable to the principle of our appropriation. I proceeded to enquire into its applicability to the linen trade, in particular, and the result was still more encouraging. It appears to me, that not only may we expect to be repaid, but to be repaid with ease and satisfaction.

The following calculation will explain my view of the case. I shall suppose a loan made of a wheel and of two stone of flax, the account will stand as follows:

DR.	s. d.	CR.	s. d.
Wheel	7 0	32 hanks of yarn at $5\frac{1}{2}$ d	14 8
Flax	9 0	Resid. Tow 4lb. at 3d	1 0
		Balance	0 4
	<u>16 0</u>		<u>16 0</u>

An ordinary spinner will complete the task in one month, and will thus by one month's labour acquire the possession of a wheel. Again the account may be stated as follows:

Loan as above 16s.

But suppose prices high:		£ s. d.
£ s. d.	Labour of a woman	
Flax 5s. st. 10 0	in spinning 1s 6d a	
Wheel 10 0	week, but taking it at	
— 1 0 0	1s only, and leaving	
Interest 5 per cent. 0 1 0	$\frac{1}{3}$ of her time for	
Balance of profit after	household work--this	
purchasing wheel. 1 11 0	for one year.	2 12 0
<u>£2 12 0</u>		<u>£2 12 0</u>

This presents a greater encouragement to industry than we could by possibility have anticipated ; but were it ten-fold greater, till the existing impediments are removed, and implements placed in the peasant's hand, no progress can be made.

In the spinning establishments formed by Gen. Bourke, he at first had to sustain a loss of 7 per cent., or in other words sold his yarn for 7 per cent. less than he had given for the flax. His last account had reduced this loss to 2 per cent. and his neighbour, Mr. Compton, had balanced his accounts even. It is evident therefore that as skill advances what has been a loss will become a profit, and I rather imagine that the women will spin better on their own account than when brought together to labour for any charitable committee.

The Inspector General Besnard was employed on a tour of inspection in the Netherlands on the subject of flax ; the results of his observations are of the last importance, and I enclose them for your consideration.

*From the Rev. George Forster, Thurles, County of
Tipperary, 31st. October, 1822.*

Amidst such a mass of misery, individual aid or alms can do but little, and it is only through the medium of their own industry that the poor can be permanently relieved. Under this conviction, above a year ago, we endeavoured to establish in the neighbourhood of Thurles, the manufacture of coarse yarn and linen, and at a weekly yarn market, which has been regularly held in the town for some months past, we give stated premiums to the persons who sell certain quantities of yarn, the produce of their families industry, and also to the weavers who buy their yarn at our market.

Our fund has arisen from subscriptions among ourselves, aided by a donation of fifty pounds from the Irish government. In addition to the premiums, we distributed spinning-wheels and flax, some gratis, and more for repayment by instalments ; and we have reason to hope that by perseverance on our parts, the market will succeed and thereby lay the foundation of industry among the females and children.

*From a Lady in the County of Mayo,
1st November, 1822.*

I came to Ireland the end of July 1818; the people were then recovering the distress and disease of the two preceding years, but fever still prevailed to a great extent; the number of beggars besieging the hall door, and swarming in the passages and offices, obliged me to exert myself to provide for them by other means than mere charity. I began with getting a list of all persons belonging to the estate from the parish priest, and then bought flax, and offered spinning to all asking relief; by this means I soon knew the regular and habitual beggars from those having houses and a little land, whose distress was accidental. With very few exceptions (not above five or six,) I found all willing to work, if work could by any means support them, and the number of my spinners soon became numerous, and in December amounted to above eighty; still sickness prevailed, and all I could do was very inadequate to the relief required, but none died of fever after my arrival. The following spring, Mr. S. succeeded in establishing a dispensary, and I was then able to refuse all relief to beggars, and, in a very short time, none came to the house. Every thing I could spare of milk, broth, &c. I gave regularly twice a week to all the poor spinners, and by giving every thing myself, and assembling all at the same hour, imposition was almost entirely prevented. In the spring, Mr. S. wished to break up about four acres of coarse grass, and it was portioned among the poorest, rent free, particularly widows, who had been compelled by distress to abandon their holdings. I think this was of great use, and settled many. Those who had no residence of their own, were assisted in the course of the summer in building cabins, and by the beginning of the next winter, many families I had found begging, without a home, had cabins and potatoes, and earned from 1s. to 2s. a week by spinning, besides what their boys could do. Mr. S. the first spring (1819) sowed three acres of flax for me, which enabled me to give spinning at less loss, and he saved the seed of about half an acre. In January 1820, I was able to begin a girls' free-school, on a very small scale at first, for I began with twenty girls, of whom very few knew their letters, or had ever touched a needle. Some of twelve or thirteen years could not say a prayer in any language, and there was certainly a great prejudice against the school, but this wore off rapidly, and though the country was very much

disturbed immediately about us, the winter of 1820 and 1821, I found the spinning and school go on perfectly, and both succeeded in every way. The produce of ten acres of flax was spun in the course of the winter and following summer, and in three months I had fifty girls in the school, and have now ninety, and might have two or three times as many if I had room for them, for I have applications almost daily. Mr. S. sowed flax-seed, saved from the flax he grew for my spinners, and it produced a remarkably fine crop, and ever since he has saved the greatest part of the seed, stacking the flax and threshing and bogging it in March. I find it a much greater charity to give spinning from March to August than during the winter half year, and though I give it all the year round, I insist on all the unmarried girls whose mothers spin for me, going to service during the three winter months, when all can get service, who are good spinners, and have a wheel. Potatoes are plentiful in November, December, and January, and the flax is spun and the yarn sold as quickly as possible to make up the January rents, so that the abundance of food, and the press of work, makes every one here a spinner for the quarter who are able to afford it. The girl is expected to spin a hank a day, and to use her own wheel. Mr. S. for the last three years, has bought Dutch flax-seed, and retailed it to the people at prime cost, giving time to those he could trust. It comes higher than the Riga and American seed sold in the markets, but the people prefer it. The flax-seed saved from the Dutch seed they prefer to what they can buy in the markets, and it has always produced a better crop. Mr. S. has sown Dutch seed, and seed of his own ripening, in the same ground the same year, and has produced quite as fine flax in every respect; he has never sold or sowed seed ripened from any but Dutch seed; the seed is said to degenerate, but we have never tried it beyond the first year. Allowing the seed to ripen certainly does not injure the flax for "two hank yarn," the staple of this part of Ireland, whatever it may do for finer yarn, nor do I find the return from the scutcher and hackler diminished, if both take proper pains. The greatest trouble I have had is in preventing the habitual impositions of the spinners: almost all at first brushed or at least rubbed their yarn with a wet cloth whilst on the reel. This practice is encouraged by the yarn buyers, who buy up a great deal of yarn at the cabin doors, and contrive to dispose of it without its being exposed publicly for sale. Both these practices are contrary to law. The fraudulency of the Connaught yarn is notorious,

and certainly a serious injury to the people ; they cheat in the reeling, in the size of the reels even, and by brushing the yarn. By attending to these particulars, and to having the thread sufficiently twisted, I hardly lose any thing by the spinning ; the chief part of the loss is in weaving. Mr. S. calculates the prime cost of the hackled flax to be 6d. per lb. long, and tear-flax valued together. This is charging the prime cost of seed, the highest con-acre rent for land, and every sort of labour used in the production of the article ;—the value of the second scutching, tow and hackling tow are deducted. The market price of hackled flax is from 7d to 9d a lb., say 8d as an average this year and last. I pay 4d a lb. for spinning, and have always got 10d a lb. for my yarn, generally 11½d, and sometimes as high as 14d. Our barony abounds with poor weavers, who, I believe, about 15 years ago emigrated from the North of Ireland to this estate, and were encouraged to settle by the late landlord. The weavers generally do their work much better than the spinners, but the value of labour is so small, they cannot support themselves, and the greater part have no capital to purchase yarn. The sort of work that pays the best, is what is called Sligo webs, two hank (or sometimes mixed yarn) wove into pieces 52 yards long, and seven-eighths wide ; 53 hanks usually make something more than 52 yards, but not more than ensures the right measure, for every weaver does not give exactly the same return of measure. If the work is good, I get 9d a yard for these webs. The ashes to boil the yarn for each web cost 1s 8d. The account would stand thus :

	£	s.	d.
53 hanks at 5d per hank, or 10d per lb.	1	2	1
Ashes	0	1	8
Weaving 3½d per yard, or 15s per web.	0	15	0
		1	18
52 yards at 9d per yard	1	19	0

I now take in yarn, pay for the spinning it, give out fresh flax, and take in, and pay for the weaving of webs, and give out fresh yarn to the weavers once a week. I have about 30 weavers employed, and this year have had the greatest part of the summer as many as 120 spinners, but usually about 80. It does not occupy above 6 hours to do all this ; the weavers count the threads in one cut of one hank of the yarn, brought by each spinner. Each spinner's yarn is weighed before all

present, and any deficiency of weight declared, and any one doubting it, allowed to examine it. Each hank I examine myself, and if I think it uneven, or not well twisted, or brushed, give it to the weavers to decide upon. By running my eye over every hank myself, I can detect any error in the reeling; and by calling on the weavers to decide, I avoid any imputation of partiality, or unnecessary strictness. As the weavers are to manufacture the yarn themselves, it is their interest not to pass bad. Each spinner sees the bundle of flax weighed before she takes it, and if there is the least dispute, I always have it weighed over again to satisfy her, provided the objection is made before she leaves the room. I have a table ruled for keeping the accounts which facilitates the business very much. The name of the spinner, and her place of residence is entered in the first column, the weight given her in the next, the price per lb. in the next, and the sum earned entered when the yarn is returned, and the money paid her. Thus :

Name.	Residence.	Friday, Sept. 27.			Friday, Oct. 4.		
		quantity	rate per lb.	price paid	lbs.	d.	s. d.
B. Scally ..	Driney ..	3 lbs.	4d	1s 0d	3	4	
M. Kenny.	Orme	4	4	1 4	4	4	1 4
W. Tarpy..	Moyne ..	6 tow	2	1 0	6 tow	2	
C. Fraine	Bally glass	6	4	2 0	6	4	2 6

The table I have given a sketch of, but it should be on large paper, so as to contain space for eight weeks in breadth, and for all the spinners names in length, and I call over the names and take the yarn of each and pay her, &c. and dismiss her, in the order in which she stands in the list. By means of this table I can instantly see when the flax was given, and who has not returned the yarn punctually. I have been thus particular, because it was not possible for any one to be more ignorant of all concerning spinning and the manufacture of linen than I was at first, and I think in few places could there be more beggars, and poor habitually idle, and accustomed to live by hanging about the great house, than we found here, and because I am certain any one might do all that I have done with less trouble than they would believe, when once the people are got into a right way, and the thing regularly in train. Now you do not see a beggar for weeks together, and I should think at least 50 families are almost entirely supported by the spinning, who would otherwise be begging all or at least the greatest part of the year. The only charity I have found good to professional beggars is

taking their children when about 12 years old and clothing them, and binding them for a year. The few shillings (from 5s to 8s) their master agrees to give as yearly wages, I make him engage in writing to pay into the hands of a third person, approved of by all parties, to prevent the parents of the child getting it; at the end of the year, I take the money and new clothe the child, and bind him for another year; in three years, he is, if he is good for any thing and healthy, able to earn wages enough to pay for his own clothing, and I then leave him to himself. I have uniformly found beggars eager to get their children so disposed of, and the children glad to leave off begging, though not always steady to remaining a year in the same service, without being threatened with the interference of a magistrate. Where there is a relation willing to take a child, I prefer him, and always leave the boy to chuse his own master. I know no charity that would be more extensively useful than giving wheels to young girls going to service, and next to this, lending wheels gratis; the wheels should be lent only till asked for again, and at least once a year should be all brought back, and inspected and repaired. The makers of wheels and reels engage to keep both in repair gratis for three years. I find the children in the schools, both of the boys and the girls, much more docile and every way easier to teach than any poor children I ever saw in England, and much more thankful and anxious for instruction, now that the prejudice against us as strangers is worn off. The girls soon learn to do plain work neatly, and to keep it clean, and to be comparatively neat and clean in their own persons; and in honesty and industry when out of school their improvement far exceeds my expectations, and they have evidently a pride in being trusted, and will not screen in each other any act they consider a disgrace to the school.

TRUSTEES

FOR

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY IN IRELAND.

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HEADS OF A PLAN
FOR
*ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY
IN IRELAND.*

*Irish Committee Room,
21st September, 1822.*

The Committee finding that the first object of their attention, the provision of a supply of food for the relief of the distressed districts in Ireland, has been very generally attained, have endeavoured to appropriate the balance in their hands for the encouragement of useful occupation among the Irish Peasantry, enabling them in some degree to supply their own wants, and tending, through industry, to promote their moral improvement, and to raise them above their present destitute condition.

From various sources of information, the best appropriation of the principal part of this balance seems to be for the encouragement of the growth of Flax, and the manufacture of Yarn, Linen, and perhaps in some instances of Wool, through the means of the domestic industry of the people.

This appropriation is not made in substitution of any efforts either public or private, but for the purpose of affording additional encouragement, and removing the obstacles which seem to impede the industry of the Irish peasantry.

For this purpose the following heads of a plan are prepared, in a full confidence that every effort will be made, by all the parties on whose co-operation their success must depend, to make the proposed institution extensively and permanently useful.

It is proposed to name nine Directors, or Auditors, in London, giving them a power of filling up vacancies in their own body, occasioned by death or resignation. Three to be a quorum.

A Board of Trustees to be appointed in the counties of Cork, Clare, Galway, Kerry, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Limerick, not exceeding nine in number; the vacancies by death or resignation to be filled up by the Directors. Three to be a quorum.

A Committee or Committees to be appointed by the County Trustees, of which they should be ex-officio members, together with a paid Clerk or Book-keeper, to act under them.

All remittances to be made by the Directors to the County Trustees.

The mode of affording encouragement to be upon the plan of the Charitable Loans, so long established and so much approved of in various parts of Ireland. No aid to be given in money, but in flax-seed, flax, wool, yarn, or implements, estimating these articles at prime cost, and not exceeding in value to any one person within one year the sum of ten pounds, or the value of two looms.

The details of this plan to be carried into effect by the Committee acting under the direction of the Trustees.

The Trustees to fix times for their own meeting, and to give a fortnight's notice of their first meeting in the public papers.

The Committee to meet at such fixed times and places as may seem expedient for the purpose of receiving applications and deciding upon them.

All implements, &c. thus considered as loans to be paid for, together with 5 per cent. interest, by monthly instalments, allowing three months to pass before the payment of the first instalment, and the whole sum being paid off within twelve months.

Each person receiving assistance to become bound himself, and to give security for the punctual repayment of the principal and interest by the specified instalments.

Every application to be in writing, signed by the parties agreeing to become securities, and to be entered in a special register, together with the decision of the Committee thereon, whether affirmative or negative.

When assistance is given in flax-seed, flax, or yarn, the Committee to be authorised, if they shall so think fit, to receive payment in home-saved flax-seed, in flax, or yarn, of

a good quality; making a proportionate increase for the interest.

The accounts and vouchers to be made up in a specific form, and submitted every year to the local Trustees in the month of January; to be attested on oath by the Clerk, certified by the Committee, and a copy thereof to be laid before the Directors in London, on or before the 1st of March in every year.

Any person failing in making good his instalment, to be proceeded against either in his own person, or his sureties, at the quarter session next ensuing his default, and to become, in case any loss is incurred by reason of his non-payment, incapable of receiving any relief in future.

Local contributions to be collected by the Trustees and Committee in aid of these objects.

*From the Right Hon. Lord Carbery, Castle Freke,
County of Cork, 29th September, 1822.*

You will have seen ere this, from some communications of mine to the Committee, that the County of Cork is engaged in trying to carry into effect a plan similar in principle to that proposed by the London Committee. Similar communications have also been made I believe by Mr. De La Cour. Your Committee had nominated the Trustees, and we had nominated our County Committee, without either being aware of the intentions of the other. We were early apprised of the generous intentions of the London Committee to appropriate the great balance in their hands to the promotion of industry in Ireland; and I can safely say there is a most anxious desire in this country to second their views, and to pay the most scrupulous attention to the administration of the funds which may be allotted to that purpose.

With respect to the actual distribution of the small loans, or implements, to individuals, that, I should imagine, must be the duty of local Committees in the several districts, and may thus possibly be made instrumental to encreasing the funds, by requiring some proportion of private subscription to be given in addition to any aids from the general fund.

From the Lord Bishop of Cork, 1st October, 1822.

As a convincing proof of the sound judgment of your Committee in selecting the growth and manufacturing of flax as the most useful and the most likely to be efficacious employment for our poor, I beg leave to observe that in the western parts of this county, where a coarse kind of linen is manufactured, not one of those employed in the manufacture experienced the extreme want and distress under which their neighbours must have perished, but for the generous interference of their English fellow subjects; and yet that very district is altogether one of the poorest in this county.

From the experience of forty years, I can vouch for the superior usefulness of lending and enforcing repayment, rather than of giving money or implements for manufacture. In the very limited extent to which my small means would allow me to practice, I cannot recollect a single instance, where I had the happy consciousness of having done good by gifts, and scarcely one in which I had given a small loan and received repayment by small weekly instalments, that did not prove effectual.

From John O'Driscoll, Esq. Dunmanway, County of Cork, 7th October, 1822.

The plan itself has my entire approbation, and I think it cannot fail to be eminently useful. I do not see at present that I could suggest any improvement.

I shall readily undertake the trust, and shall do every thing in my power to promote the benevolent objects of the London Committee, to which this country is so deeply indebted, and indebted perhaps for nothing more than for the wise appropriation made of the surplus fund.

*From Robert De La Cour, Esq. Beareforest, Mallow,
County of Cork, 30th June, 1823.*

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the cultivation of flax has been carried to a much greater extent in this county this year than it has yet been known, and I trust the facilities and encouragements we shall be enabled to afford to the manufacture of it, will induce our peasantry to grow it on a still more extended scale, and thereby materially improve their condition.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,
30th September, 1822.*

I can have no hesitation in accepting the office of Trustee for the County of Galway in conjunction with the eight other gentlemen and noblemen mentioned in your letter of the 21st. While I am spared (under God) I will heartily assist and co-operate with your Committee in carrying into effect an object, than which I cannot contemplate any more likely to render to the peasantry of this country solid and permanent benefit.

From the same, May 21st, 1823.

We are going on slowly but very surely and safely: the Headford Committee has taken £100; the Monivea Committee £50; the Tuam, by Dr. Kelly and myself, £100; Sir John Burke £50. Applications are also received from the Ballinasloe Committee for £100; from the Ballinagar for £100; and a second from the Headford for £100. If these work well, and I have sanguine hope they will, the example will no doubt in a little time spread through the country.

*From the Right Rev. Dr. Sughrue, Killarney,
30th September, 1822.*

I most cheerfully accept the trust reposed in me, and will co-operate with all the energies I am capable of, with the other Kerry Trustees, in carrying your laudable plan into effect. Your instructions are so clear, and the suggestions of the printed letters so judicious, that I have nothing to add. The only observation that strikes me at present, is, that it would be most desirable to establish a Linen Hall in Killarney and Tralee; there is already one in Dingle. The appointing a judicious person in each hall to judge of the quality of the thread and linen that may be presented for sale, would be most desirable, as it would secure the fitness of both thread and linen for any market to which they may be sent.

*Report of the Trustees for the County of Kerry, dated
Tralee, 23d April, 1823.*

I am instructed by the Board of Trustees for the County of Kerry, to request you will be pleased to lay before the London Committee the following report of their proceedings.

The Trustees, at their first meeting in October last, proceeded to distribute the county into the most convenient districts, consisting of seven, and nominated a Committee in each, consisting of gentlemen of respectability, such as would be most likely to carry into effect with zeal and ability the details of the plan laid down by the London Committee.

Each of the Committees, thus constituted, had been directed to hold its meetings in the principal town of the district, and to correspond regularly with the Trustees.

The district towns selected are, Tralee, Killarney, Listowell, Dingle, Milltown, Cahersiveen, and Kenmare.

The Trustees next addressed a communication to each District Committee, calculated to impress the nature and importance of their functions, and explanatory of the duties likely to devolve on them, urging at the same time the essential consideration, that the careful execution of those important duties should not be hazarded by any precipitancy in attempting to give effect to their purposes.

The Trustees considering the establishment of public linen halls or markets in each of the districts of great importance, and aware that no portion of the funds of the London Committee can be applied in building, entertain sanguine hopes that the principal proprietors, who are in many instances resident in England, may be induced to co-operate, by erecting the buildings necessary.

As the law empowers grand juries to levy on the county a sum not exceeding £300, for a linen hall or market in the county town, the Trustees have submitted a plan and estimate for this purpose to the Grand Jury for this county, at the late assizes, who have been pleased to give it their sanction in the first instance, by certifying for it, and it is presumed a presentment will be had at the next assizes.

The Trustees have made an application to the Provost and Fellows of Dublin College for a donation towards a Linen Hall at Cahersiveen, where they have an estate, which application has been successful, the College having sent them £100 for that purpose.

The Trustees having applied to the late several relief Committees, to transfer the unappropriated balances in their hands to the district Committees appointed by the Trustees, the following sums have been accordingly transferred, and will be brought into operation, in furtherance of the plan laid down by your Committee.

	£	s.	d.
Killarney district	200	0	0
Kenmare.....	566	11	5
Iveragh, not yet exactly ascertained, but is supposed to be.....	£800 to 1000	0	0
Dingle	124	11	3

The Trustees, aware of the necessity and importance of supplying the industrious peasantry of the county, in the way of loans, repayable with implements of manufacture, such as wheels, reels, &c. of the best materials and construction, have furnished the district Committees with the best models of each description, directing them to use the most diligent attention in ascertaining that all implements be in every respect strictly conformable to the models, and composed of sound and seasoned materials; and the Trustees have the satisfaction of stating, that as far as the Committees have gone, their injunctions have been strictly complied with.

The season for the culture of flax-seed being at hand, the Trustees have issued instructions to the district Committees,

calculated to produce the best effects, and they have reason to hope, that the seed will be extensively cultivated this year in the country.

The Trustees have furnished the Committees with books, wherein to register their proceedings and keep regular accounts; and have directed them to furnish abstracts of their accounts every three months.

I here beg leave, on the part of the Trustees, to assure your Committee, that the slow progress they have hitherto made in the application of the funds committed to their superintendence, is not to be attributed to supineness or want of due zeal and attention, but rather to the conviction with which they are impressed, that this cautious mode of proceeding will be most conducive to the ultimate success of the great object of the trust reposed in them. And I may add, that they now entertain sanguine hopes, that the plan will hereafter, and at no distant period, prove extensively operative.

*Copy of a Circular sent from the Trustees of the
County of Kerry to the Local Committees.*

The Trustees under the London Committee, in notifying the constitution of the Committees which have benevolently undertaken to administer the measures for encouraging the Linen and Woollen manufacture in this county, think it right to endeavour to impress on them the nature and importance of their functions.

Placed as the Trustees are, between the London Committee and the industrious poor of this county, they owe it to both, to endeavour in the very outset to do justice to this great trust, and to place the benevolent system on so firm a foundation as to insure its permanency.

The day of gratuitous charity having passed away with the necessity which gave it birth, a still more important purpose is substituted by the noble effort contemplated by our friends in London, to guard against famines and pestilences, by raising our poor into the character of a productive, self-dependent people, from the state of destitution and mendicancy which renders our fertile country the most striking example of human misery; and yet such a condition is not attributable to mental or bodily inferiority.

Our people are as strong, as healthy, as ingenious, as those of any other country. In other circumstances and

places they evince distinguished industry, and the highest qualifications for success in every department. To what then is it owing, that at home they are debased and miserable? Must it not be to the system under which they live? To correct that system is the great object of our trust. To render the peasant (at present supine and dependant) enterprising and independent. To draw a marked line between the slothful and the industrious. To afford to honesty and industry, a certain resource for employment. Such are the great purposes, to which we hope to excite your zealous attention.

On the indefatigable spirit, the patient perseverance, and the impartiality and integrity with which you administer your department, will depend the permanence and efficacy of the plan; and on its success we may perhaps reckon more than on any other means not merely to extend industry and manufacturing prosperity, but to the higher purposes of the improvement of the moral habits of the people.

Upon the strictness with which you conduct your department, every thing will depend. As far as the London Committee have laid down rules, they must be inviolable. Where they have not, it will rest with you to exercise the most vigilant prudence for the security of the undertaking, after consultation with the trustees.

- The working of the business will be this: on all applications made to you, even to the lowest, you should endeavour to discriminate as to the merits of applicants; for which purpose it may be advisable to require certificates of the clergy of one or other persuasion, when practicable of both. You will in every instance investigate in a rigid manner, the security offered, to guard the trustees, not merely against contingent loss, but against the expense and mischief of litigation. It may be hoped that landlords, or the substantial farmers, or tradesmen, may become securities, and in each instance it will be advisable to apprise the securities, that on failure of fulfilling their engagements, proceedings will inevitably be taken; that the trustees are the inflexible agents of other parties, and have no discretion on the subject.

The regulations of the London Committee point out the mode in which relief is to be afforded. *We* add the condition that no repayment be taken in *kind* by any Committee, in any case whatever. It must be uniformly in *money*. The Committees will be held responsible for the quality of the implements which they shall distribute. Accounts to be kept in Committee books in the strictest manner, and abstracts, certified, to be furnished to the trustees, once every three

months, in order to the arrangement of the general account for the satisfaction of the London Committee.

The Trustees think it right to apprise the Committee of the district, that however confident they are of the zealous co-operation which they reckon on from the character of the gentlemen they have selected, yet it is their firm determination (in performance of their imperative duty) in any case of irregularity or deviation from the rules laid down, to check, suspend, or altogether withhold from any Committee so acting, any further aid, and to report such case, and the reasons on which such decision is founded, to the London Committee.

The Trustees beg to urge to the Committee, the essential consideration, that the careful execution of their important duties, should not be hazarded by any precipitancy in attempting to give effect to their purposes.

*From A. B. Rowan, Esq. Tralee, County of Kerry,
June 28th, 1823.*

The quantity of flax-seed distributed upon loan by the Committees, may be taken at 450 hogsheads, or £1550^s worth, and we have the satisfaction to know, that this distribution has caused the sowing of this year to exceed that of last and former years very largely. A plan and estimate for a Linen Hall at Tralee has been furnished, for which the Grand Jury at next assizes will present, and the building commenced immediately afterwards; and we hope to have it opened for the sale of the growing crop of flax-seed.

*From the Rev. Charles Hanrahan, Limerick,
28th September, 1822.*

The heads of a plan for promoting industry in Ireland, by the encouragement of the growth of flax, and the manufacture of yarn, linen, &c. appear to me admirably arranged; and being zealously carried into effect by the Trustees and local Committees, must prove a source of incalculable permanent advantage to the poor of the distressed counties in Ireland.

Independently of the shame necessarily attached to a refusal to second, by every means in my power, the benevolent exertions of the London Committee, I further feel it a duty, which I owe to the poor of my country, cheerfully and cordially to co-operate to the utmost of my abilities, in giving efficacy to a measure so obviously calculated to supply their wants and promote their moral improvement. I therefore willingly accept the honour of being one of the Trustees of the Institution in the county of Limerick. By patience, perseverance, and vigorous exertions, the most sanguine hopes are entertained of soon beholding a moral revolution in the habits of our poor, and thousands of them raised from their present miserably debased condition. Eternal thanks to the humanity and benevolence of our English fellow-subjects.

*From William Howly, Esq. Limerick,
1st October, 1822.*

The plan which seems to have met the concurrence of the London Committee, occurred some months back to myself, as one most likely to be attended with the most favourable results for encouraging industry in Ireland. Many, however, doubted its practicability in detail, as better suited for cities and towns, where the vicinage of the borrower and his securities rendered deceptions more difficult, than for an extensive county, where a wide spread population makes it impossible to judge accurately of the solvency of persons tendering themselves as securities. There is a society called the Jubilee Loan Society, long established in this city, which lends out money to poor individuals on two securities; but the association is founded on a particular Act of Parliament, by which the trustees are enabled to recover from defaulters by summons before a magistrate; perhaps some measure of this kind would be preferable to a constant application to the quarter sessions. Also there is a porter attached to our establishment, who is witness to every note passed by a borrower and his securities, and this is found to defeat much fraud which would otherwise inevitably take place.

Having thrown out these few observations as to the detail of the plan, I shall reserve myself for a future occasion to suggest any other alteration which may occur on a more mature consideration. I cannot, however, conclude without

expressing, on behalf of all classes of my countrymen, the due obligation they feel to your Committee for your fostering care and protection during a period of the most awful distress ; and they cannot but value, with equally grateful feelings, this further proof of your regard in thus seeking to obviate the recurrence of future calamity.

*From Townsend M. Hall, Esq. Erina, County of Clare,
1st October, 1822.*

I beg to assure you that I shall undertake the office with pleasure, being convinced that the object of your Committee is of vital consequence to the welfare of this impoverished country, which amidst the greatest plenty of food I ever remember to have seen in this part of Ireland, wears the aspect of misery and privation of every thing desirable among the lower order. The great cause of all this evil is, no doubt, the want of employment ; and I regret to say, that the uncommon depreciation in the value of agricultural proceeds is daily lessening the call for labour. The attempt to lay the foundation of the Linen manufacture in the South of Ireland will, I am confident, be attended with the happiest consequences, and the loan system is in my opinion best calculated to produce this result.

*From Major General Bourke, Limerick,
14th July, 1823.*

In reply to your letter of the 20th ulto. I am directed by the Committee of the County of Limerick Agricultural Association to enclose an account of implements, flax, yarn, flaxseed, and money (the latter to local Committees,) issued on loan between the 19th November 1822, and 30th June 1823, in conformity to the " Heads of a Plan" transmitted to the Trustees of this county for their guidance by the London Committee.

The funds placed at the disposal of the Trustees amounted to £6831 : 5s. 5d., of which £1582 : 19s. 6d. has been issued to the public in the way of loan during the last six months. The balance, after deducting salaries and expenses, and a

small sum in the Treasurer's hands, is lodged in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Irish Stock; it is intended to transfer it to the Savings Bank of this city under the authority of the late Act of Parliament.

The sum of £250 returned in the accounts, has been issued to local Committees on the joint securities of three persons, payable at the expiration of one year with 5 per Cent. interest; the parties at the time of receiving the grant signing an engagement to expend the money in the manner pointed out by the plan of the London Committee.

Three several loans of this nature have been made,—two of One Hundred Pounds each, and one of Fifty Pounds. This Committee hoped by such arrangements to extend the benefit of the plan generally through the county by engaging the resident gentry in their different districts to promote the Linen manufacture by loans of implements and materials to the industrious poor of their vicinity, over whom they might from local circumstances be enabled to exercise an useful controul, and to whom it is their duty to extend their fostering care. As much has not been done in this way as the Committee expected; but the Trustees Act, now offering a cheap and expeditious process for the recovery of the amount of small loans made upon their funds, it is hoped, that Local Committees will be formed and avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining sums of money to be usefully expended amongst the poor of the district in small loans of implements or materials for the manufacture of linen, the repayments of which can be enforced at the next petty sessions without difficulty or expense.

The implements and materials returned as a loan in the accompanying account, have been issued chiefly to persons residing within a short distance of the city of Limerick.

Much encouragement to the Linen manufacture has been afforded by the distribution, and no great irregularity has as yet occurred in the periodical repayments. Whether eventually there will be any considerable loss, is yet to be ascertained.

The Committee have stopped their issues for the present, as well on account of flax being scarce at this season, as that they wish to try the effects of the grants already made, and whether the repayments of their advancements may generally be reckoned upon.

One hundred and eighty-eight hogshead of flax-seed have been lent out to about one thousand persons, chiefly in quantities of from ten to twenty pottles: payment for these is to be made on the 1st of October next, either in cash, flax, or

well saved seed. This quantity of seed should sow nearly five hundred Irish acres of land, and in its manufacture (supposing it all to be wrought into linen,) give daily employment to about two thousand persons for one year, making due allowance for Sundays and holidays, if wrought only in yarn to about sixteen hundred and eighteen persons.

There have been also 254 hogsheads of flax-seed more than in the last year, sold by the merchants in this city in the present; amounting in all to 2006 hogsheads lent and sold. In the neighbouring counties there has also been a greater sale than usual.

Upon the whole the Committee are of opinion that a very considerable impulse has been given to the Linen manufacture of this county within the last twelve months, and there appears to be a growing inclination in the peasantry to cultivate it.

For this the county is principally indebted to the munificent donation from the London Committee.

The resident gentry of some districts have likewise exerted themselves to promote it, and the Linen Board has been more liberal in grants of implements to this county than was heretofore the case. If the price of Linen shall be encouraging, there is every reason to expect a considerable share of employment will be afforded to our peasantry in this manufacture during the ensuing year. The Committee have not attempted any thing in the woollen manufacture. It is in this county confined to domestic purposes only, and there did not upon examination appear any prospect of extending it with advantage.

County of Limerick Agricultural Association.

The Committee of the Agricultural Association deem it their duty to lay before the County and City of Limerick, a brief statement of what they have hitherto been enabled to effect for the encouragement of the Linen manufacture, and to point out the means by which, in their opinion, it may be still further promoted in this district.

Associated by the Trustees named by the London Committee, in the administration of the munificent donation of that body, the Limerick Committee have, in the period be-

tween the 19th November of the last, and 30th June of the present year, issued upon loan to the industrious poor,

22	Looms,
240	Wheels
25	Reels,
9404	lbs. of Flax,
1818	lbs. of Tow,
2026	lbs. of Thread,
4800 $\frac{1}{2}$	hanks of Yarn,
188	hogsheads of Flax-seed.

They have granted free of charge, to Spinning Schools, District Committees, and other charitable societies, 56 wheels, 15 reels; and eight sets of hackles to individuals following the business of hackling flax. These implements for gratuitous distribution, with others not yet issued, were placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Linen Board of Ireland. The Committee have also lent to the Cahirconlish Committee, £100—to the Pallas Kenry Committee, £100—to the Bruree Committee, £50, to be repaid with interest at 5 per cent. at the expiration of twelve months; the borrowers engaging to expend the money in the encouragement of the Linen manufacture, in the manner suggested by the London, and now practiced by the Limerick Committee. To render the funds at the disposal of the Limerick Committee more extensively useful, they beg most earnestly to recommend the formation of District Associations generally throughout the county. When a respectable society is formed, and such security as this Committee may approve of shall be offered, a loan, from Ten to One Hundred Pounds, will be made to three of its members, payable in twelve months, with 5 per cent. interest; the borrowers engaging to expend the money in the encouragement of the Linen or Woollen manufacture, by small loans of implements or materials to the industrious poor in their neighbourhood. The articles thus issued to be charged to the borrowers at prime cost, and the amount payable with 5 per cent. interest. By the Charitable Loan Society Act, 4 Geo. III. c. 32. notes may be passed for the repayment of such loans without stamps, and the sum, when under Ten Pounds, may be recovered before Justices of the Peace at petty sessions.

A small capital is thus offered to any district association that may choose to apply for it on the foregoing conditions,

and a prompt and easy method of recovering any advances it may make to the poor is ensured by the Charitable Loan Society Act. Within the year the whole or nearly the whole of the small loans made by the association may be called in, probably without loss, and if upon accounting for the first loan to the satisfaction of the Limerick Committee, a second should be applied for by the District Association, there is no reason to suppose it will be withheld. In this way, at little or no expense to the District Societies, the benefits of the charitable loan system for the encouragement of industry may be extended throughout the county.

An increased quantity of flax-seed having been sown this season, the ensuing autumn will probably be a very advantageous period for forming associations for the promotion of the Linen manufacture. Flax will probably be cheap and abundant. Thread yarn has been in such demand in England this year, that no less a quantity than 2113 tons has been imported from foreign countries—a demand which is not likely to diminish, and which Ireland ought to be capable of supplying.

It is needless in this place to dilate on the great advantage of establishing manufacture in these Southern counties. The improved condition of the peasantry of the Northern parts of our island, is a sufficient proof of the inestimable benefits which a flourishing manufacture produces.

The Committee hope that these few observations, which they have thought it their duty to offer to the resident Nobility, Gentry and Clergy of this county, may have the effect of producing increased exertion, and extending the encouragement of the Linen manufacture beyond the neighbourhood of this city, to which, with few exceptions, it has hitherto been confined. The Committee are anxious for the diffusion of their funds to the remotest parts of the county, and will gladly afford every assistance in their power to any District Association formed for the encouragement of industry, and disposed to act upon their system.

The printed regulations of the Committee may be had at the Linen Hall, Limerick.

Limerick, July 21, 1823.

As a proof of what may be done by exertion and judgment on the part of District Associations, the County of Limerick Committee have great pleasure in laying before the public the following valuable communication from the Rev. William Waller, Treasurer of the Chapel Russell Committee:—

Pallas Kenry, 23d July, 1823.

Sir,

In pursuance of your letter of 17th inst. I herewith enclose you an account of the manner in which the sum of One Hundred Pounds granted to the Chapel Russell Committee in the months of November and March last, has been disposed of up to the 1st July instant, which I hope will appear sufficiently explicit to the County of Limerick Association Committee.

In consequence of your desire that I should report to your Committee any information as to practical results that I may deem interesting, I beg leave to offer the following remarks:—

Having now for seven of the most discouraging months of the year been engaged in conducting the loan granted by your Committee to the parish of Chapel Russell, it is very satisfactory to be able to state that there has not been a failure in the payment of a single instalment, and therefore I have no doubt whatsoever as to the beneficial results which will arise to the poorer orders of this parish, without the least apprehension of a diminution of capital; nor do I think it possible in a confined report like the present to give an adequate idea of the benefits already arising to the poor peasantry who have availed themselves of the advantages of this charity.

Many difficulties however presented themselves to the operations of our Committee, which might not be easily removed in places, which in local circumstances differ materially from the parish of Chapel Russell. The difficulty of getting adequate security, and sufficiently near the committee-room to be immediately called upon in default of payment, has been the greatest obstacle to the extension of this charity; this has been less felt in our parish from its confined extent, than I am inclined to think it would be in a larger parish; nor do I think it would be practicable in an extensive parish, unless branch Committees were appointed, who, from their local knowledge of the security offered, as well as contiguity

in case of application to the security on omission of payments, would be enabled to act with sufficient circumspection and decision.

That very satisfactory results have already been experienced is acknowledged by every member of the Chapel Russell Committee, who from their situation in life, are best enabled to judge, and there can be no doubt, but that if this loan should be persevered in, with the attention which it requires, it will in a very short period of time manifest to a common observer an evident amelioration in the condition of those for whose benefit it was intended.

To enumerate cases would now perhaps be tedious, but I cannot avoid stating that of one industrious individual, which, whilst it reflects the highest credit upon the person named, speaks volumes as to the beneficial results attendant on the exertions now making for bettering the condition of the peasantry of this county. A woman of the name of Sheehy, wife of a labourer, and having five helpless children, was amongst the first to obtain a portion of the loan in wool and flax; not only were her children in a state of nakedness, but also both herself and her husband were in a like condition; this woman by her own industry, aided by the Chapel Russell Committee, has not only clothed the whole of her family in the short space of seven months, from her own earnings, but has now flannel for sale. I could enumerate other striking instances of the success of our exertions, which, though perhaps pleasing to me, might be deemed an encroachment upon your precious time, I shall therefore take leave of this part of the subject by stating, that those whom I before had witnessed, as being without a covering to their backs, have attended on our Committee in a few months after receiving aid, to return thanks, and to exhibit the fruits arising from this loan.

With respect to the article of Wool, I beg leave to call your attention to this item in the account furnished, as our Committee have not distributed to the extent that appears by the return, without having duly considered this branch of relief, and indeed I think we may chiefly attribute our success in the management of the Loan Committee to our care, to the system adopted in the distribution of this article. Upon maturely weighing the arguments in favour of the distribution of wool by loan, it appeared, that it would act as the greatest possible stimulus in exciting a spirit of industry amongst our wretched peasantry, nor have our expectations been ill founded. Upon first entering on the management of this loan, one great obstacle which the Chapel

Russell Committee had to overcome, was the total neglect, nay I may add contempt for small earnings; nor would the punctual payment of a fair price for spinning have induced those persons who afterwards applied for assistance, to have taken advantage of the benefits offered to them. Thus circumstanced, we were obliged to seek such measures as would induce the peasantry to make some exertion for their own relief, and upon considering the subject, it was found that by a grant of one stone of wool and two stone of flax to a family, the price of the flax when spun into two-hank yarn, would not only pay for itself, but also for the wool, within a couple of shillings, as for example:—

One stone Wool	£0	14	0
Two ditto hackled Flax, at 7s. per st.	0	14	0
	<hr/>		
		£1	8 0
28 lbs. of two-hank Yarn, at 11d. per lb. ..	1	5	8
	<hr/>		
	£0	2	4

And it should be recollected that the prices here taken for both wool and flax are higher than can be expected in the ensuing year, and if this calculation was taken at the present price of wool, the return from the yarn would balance the charge of one pound eight shillings. In all exertions towards bettering the condition of the lower orders, I rather think the most effective step will be in affording them some of the comforts of life, and when we are acquainted with the scenes of wretchedness which their cabins exhibit, we will find that the article of wool, is that which holds out the greatest inducements towards industry; influenced by this conviction, the Chapel Russell Committee have invariably attended to every application for wool; and from the moment this *bonus* was held out, the peasantry began to perceive their own advantage in spinning flax.

Our Committee have deviated in a slight degree from the general instructions of the Trustees, but as they have been influenced in this change by no other motives than from a wish to strengthen the security of payment, and at the same time to make the payments as convenient as possible, I trust that your Committee will not think that we have acted irregularly. On reference to the enclosed return you will observe that the repayments by instalments are made weekly, whereas I believe the instructions require monthly, or every third month, but as the payments came lighter by

weekly instalments, than by an accumulation of weeks, and as more satisfactory security could be obtained for a weekly payment which would not be allowed to get in arrear, the Committee under the circumstances adopted this method of repayment.

I cannot conclude these remarks, which I find unavoidably spun out to a greater length than I at first expected, without mentioning the very great want of proper reels, which has obliged us to retain all our thread, as if we sent it to market, it would be seized; this want can never be relieved but by donations, and I am of opinion, that it would be prudent to confine donations to reels until the want of them is removed, as wheels can be supplied by other means, which are not applicable to the distribution of reels.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

WILLIAM WALLER.

To Joseph Harvey, jun. Esq.
Honorary Secretary to the
County of Limerick Trustees.

[Enclosed Account.]

Particulars of Loans made by the Chapel Russell Committee, from 7th December 1822, to 30th June 1823, from the sum of £100 lent to them by the Limerick Central Committee.

No. of Persons assisted directly from this Committee	Wheels	Pounds of Flax		Pounds of Wool	Hanks of Thread	Pottles of Flax-seed
		Hackled	Raw			
231	8	1848	231	1696	924	501

Total Amount, Interest included.	Repayments by Weekly Instalments						Arrears to 30th June, 1823
	Cash			Thread val.			
£ s. d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£ s. d.
108 5 8	48	0	2	21	5	4½	0 0 0

WILLIAM WALLER, Treasurer.

Pallas Kenry, 23d July, 1823.

From J. E. Strickland, Esq. Loughglyn, County of Roscommon, September 28th, 1822.

I have perused with attention your enclosure, entitled "Heads of a Plan, &c." and I consider it well adapted to promote habits of industry. I have had an opportunity of seeing the effect of assistance given in a manner somewhat similar, and am confident that very great good has been derived from it.

From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo, April 24th, 1823..

Respecting our Trustee affairs one barony has drawn about £550 to be expended in looms, wheels, and flax-seed, according to the prescribed regulations. Major O'Hara has devoted himself to forward the plan in his neighbourhood. The landed proprietors seem to become aware of the advantage, and I understand the other baronial Committees are about to make applications to our Trustees for grants of money: the poor seem most anxious to avail themselves of this plan of relief.

Mrs. Urwick is vigorously prosecuting her Dorcas manufactory; she has 25 spinners constantly at work in flax for linen, and in wool for flannel; they earn on an average about 1s. per week; insignificant as this remuneration is for a woman's hard labour for six days, you would be surprised at the eagerness and anxiety manifested by the poor to obtain the employment. Six or eight applicants are generally rejected from our want of means, on the days when the yarn is taken in. There is, therefore, no disinclination to work for subsistence when work can be obtained.

At a Meeting of the Trustees for the County of Tipperary, 11th November, 1822.

The proposal of Lord Viscount Lismore, on behalf of the Clogheen Committee, for a loan of £200, to be repaid with 5 per cent. interest, being now considered: .

Resolved—

That this board do agree to said loan, upon the proper certificate of the Treasurer of the Clogheen Committee being produced, that he has received £100 to be applied, together with the said loan in the promotion of industry according to the plan of the London Committee, and that three sufficient securities are named to and approved of, by the board at the next meeting.

The proposal of the Earl of Glengall, on behalf of the Caher Committee for a loan of £200, to be repaid with 5 per cent. interest, being now considered :

Resolved, That this board do agree to said loan, upon the proper certificate of the Treasurer of the Caher Committee being produced, that he has received £100 to be applied together with the said loan in the promotion of industry according to the plan of the London Committee, and that three sufficient securities are named to and approved of, by the board at the next meeting.

Resolved, That the proposal of James Roe, Esq. on behalf of the Tipperary Committee, for a loan of £200 to be repaid with 5 per cent. interest, as required by the instructions of the London Committee, and an engagement to add a further sum of £100 from local subscriptions to be employed for the purpose, and in the manner as directed, be taken into consideration at our next meeting.

18th March, 1823.

Resolved—

That the Reverend John Pennefather be requested to purchase fifty hogsheads of flax-seed at Limerick, on the best terms it can be procured.

That two hogsheads of flax-seed be granted to the Clanwilliam association on their present application, and should any future application be necessary, this board will be ready to give it their favourable attention.

ANNO QUARTO GEORGII IV. REGIS.

CAP. XXXII.

An Act for the amendment of the laws respecting Charitable Loan Societies in Ireland.

[30th May, 1823.]

WHEREAS certain institutions for charitable loans have been and may be established in Ireland, as well as for providing implements of industry for the labouring classes of His Majesty's subjects there; and it is expedient to amend the laws concerning the same, and to give protection to the funds of such institutions, and to afford encouragement to the formation of other institutions of a like kind; be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That if any number of persons who have formed or shall form any society in any part of Ireland, for the purpose of establishing a society for a charitable loan, or for providing implements of labour by way of loan, for the industrious classes in Ireland, or for providing implements of labour, and receiving back payment for the same by instalments, with the legal interest due thereon, re-investing the capital of the said societies, and the interest thereof, for the like purposes, and only deducting therefrom so much as shall be required to be retained for the payment of the necessary expences attending the management of such institutions, according to such rules, orders, and regulations as shall have been or shall be agreed to for such purpose, but deriving no benefit whatever from such capital, or the interest thereof, shall be desirous of having the benefit of this act, such

Persons forming Societies according to the Provisions herein described, entitled to the benefit of this Act.

persons shall cause the rules, orders, and regulations established or to be established for the management of such institutions, to be entered, deposited, and filed in manner herein-after directed, and thereupon shall be deemed to be entitled to, and shall have the benefit of the provisions contained in this act.

Rules of the Institution to be entered in a book, and a copy deposited with the Clerk of the Peace.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no such institution as aforesaid shall have the benefit of this Act, unless the rules, orders, and regulations for the management thereof shall be entered in a book or books, to be kept by an officer of such institution to be appointed for that purpose, and which book or books shall be open at all seasonable times for the inspection of the persons receiving assistance from such institutions, and unless such rules and regulations shall be fairly transcribed on parchment; and such transcript shall be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the county, county of a city, or county of a town or place wherein such institution shall be established; which transcript shall be filed by such Clerk of the Peace with the rolls of the sessions of the peace in his custody, without fee or reward to be paid in respect thereof; but nevertheless, nothing herein contained shall extend to prevent any alterations in or amendment of any such rules, orders, or regulations so entered, deposited, and filed as aforesaid, or repealing or annulling the same, or any of them, either in whole or in part, or making any new rules, orders, or regulations for the management of any such institution, in such manner as by the rules, orders, and regulations, of such institution shall from time to time be provided: but such new rules, orders, and regulations, or such alterations or amendments of former rules, orders, and regulations, or any order annulling or repealing any former rules, orders, or regulations, in the whole or in part, shall not be in force until the same respectively shall be entered in such book or books as aforesaid, and a transcript or transcripts thereof shall be deposited with such Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid, who shall file the same without fee or reward as aforesaid.

III. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That no such institution as aforesaid shall have the benefit of this Act, unless it shall be expressly provided by the rules and regulations for the management thereof, that no person or persons, being treasurer, director, trustee, or manager of such institution, or having any controul in the management thereof, shall derive any benefit from any loan made in such institution, save only and except such salaries and allowances, or other necessary expences, as shall according to such rules, orders, and regulations be provided for the charges of managing such institutions, and for remuneration to officers employed in the management thereof, exclusive of the treasurer or treasurers, director or directors, or other persons having the management and direction of such institution, who shall not, directly or indirectly, have any salary, allowance, profit, or benefit whatsoever therefrom.

IV. And be it further enacted, That all rules, orders, and regulations from time to time made and in force for the management of any such institution as aforesaid, and duly entered in such book or books as aforesaid, and deposited with such Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid, shall be binding on the several members and officers of such institution, and the several persons receiving relief from the same, and their representatives, all of whom shall be deemed and taken to have full notice thereof by such entry and deposit as aforesaid; and the entry of such rules, orders, and regulations in such book or books as aforesaid, or the transcript thereof, deposited with such Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid, or a true copy of such transcript, examined with the original and proved to be a true copy, shall be received as evidence of such rules, orders, and regulations respectively in all cases: and no certiorari shall be brought or allowed to remove any such rules, orders, or regulations, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record; and every copy of any such transcript deposited with any Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid, shall be made without fee or reward, except the actual expence of making

Officers not to have any benefit in the institution, except such salaries as shall be appointed.

Rules to be binding.

such copy ; and such copy shall not be subject to any stamp duty.

Notes and securities may be made payable to the Treasurer or Clerk.

How to be recovered.

No loan to an individual to exceed 10*l.* in any 12 months.

But loans of 100*l.* may be made to Committees consisting of three or more persons, to be paid in 12 months with interest.

V. And be it further enacted, That all notes and securities entered into for the payment of such loans, or for the payment by instalments of the price of such implements of industry by instalments, which price shall not exceed the first cost of any such implements, may be made payable to the treasurer or clerk of the said societies, and may be sued for and recovered in his name for the benefit of the said societies, by civil bill, before the assistant barrister at the Quarter Sessions to be held for the county, city, town, or place wherein such society is or may be established, or before the Justices assembled at any Petty Sessions, for such county, county of a city, or county of a town, ten days notice at the least first being given to the person sued for the amount of such notes and securities, provided the value of such notes and securities so sued for at such Petty Sessions do not in any case exceed ten pounds.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful to and for any such society to make any loan to any one individual within twelve months, or to provide any implements of industry for any one person within twelve months, exceeding in amount or value the sum of ten pounds.

VII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any such society to make a loan or loans to any committee or committees, consisting of three or more solvent persons, upon their joint and several securities, of any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, payable, with interest, at the expiration of twelve months, such committee or committees engaging to expend the amount of the said sum, and duly to account for the same, for the purposes and objects, and according to the rules, regulations, and orders of the society so advancing the same : provided always, that no greater sum than one hundred pounds shall be lent to any such committee within twelve months ; and that at the expiration of that period the amount of such loan, together with the interest due thereon, shall be

called in and paid before any new loan shall be made to any such committee.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That if any treasurer or treasurers, or other officer or officers, or other person whatsoever, who shall be entrusted with the receipt or custody of any sum or sums of money, subscribed or deposited for the purpose of such institution, or any interest or dividend arising from time to time thereby, shall be required by the rules or regulations of such institutions to become bound with sureties for the just and faithful execution of such office or trust, in such sum or sums of money as shall be required by the rules, orders, and regulations of such institution, such security shall and may be given by bond or bonds to the Clerk of the Peace for the county, county of a city, county of a town, or place where such institution shall be established for the time being, without fee or reward; and in case of forfeiture, it shall be lawful for the parties authorized for that purpose by the rules, regulations, and orders of such institution, to sue upon such bond or bonds in the name of the Clerk of the Peace for the time being, and to carry on such suit at the cost and charges and for the use of the said institution, fully indemnifying and saving harmless such Clerk of the Peace from all costs and charges of such suit or suits, or in respect thereof; and no bond or security so to be given, shall be subject to or chargeable with any stamp duty whatever.

Treasurer, &c. to give security, if required by general rules.

IX. And be it further enacted, That no note or other security which may be entered into for the repayment of any loan made under this Act, or for the payment of the price of implements of industry in manner herein-before provided, shall be subject to or chargeable with any stamp duty whatever.

No security for loan, &c. chargeable with stamp duty.

X. And be it further enacted, That all looms, spinning wheels, reels, hackles, calendars, presses, or other implements of industry, which shall be provided by the said societies, shall, before they be delivered out by them, be sealed or stamped with such mark or marks as by the said societies may be directed; and that no such looms or

Looms, wheels, and implements given under this Act, not liable to distress for rent.

other implements as aforesaid, so sealed or marked, shall be distrained for rent, or on any other account whatever, or shall be seized by virtue of any process or execution by any sheriff, senechal, or bailiff, or other person whatsoever, unless in cases when such seizure or sale is at the suit or on the behalf of the societies established under this act, whensoever the parties receiving such implements shall fail in performing their contract or engagement for the payment of the price of the same.

Funds of Societies may be deposited in Savings Banks.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Charitable Loan Society established under this Act, from time to time to subscribe or deposit such part of the funds of the said societies as they shall think fit to direct, through their treasurer or other officer, into the funds of any Savings Bank established in Ireland under an Act passed in the fifty-seventh year of His late Majesty's reign, intituled *An Act to encourage the Establishment of Banks for Savings in Ireland*, in like manner as by the said Act is provided with regard to the funds of Friendly Societies.

57 C. 3. c. 105.

EXTRACTS
FROM THE
LADIES CORRESPONDENCE
ON
THE CLOTHING SENT TO IRELAND.

From the Parish of Killaloe, County of Clare.

MUCH of the ground on which we sought information, is amongst some of the highest mountains in the county of Clare, and inhabited by poor creatures who scarcely know the common comforts of civilized life. They are without decent covering by day, and almost totally without night covering. Many of the little children are absolutely naked. In this part of the parish they have been able to save very little of their turf.

From Dysart, County of Clare, Sept. 22, 1822.

The joy of the poor at the prospect of getting clothes for the winter, words can hardly express, and which they seem truly grateful for.

From the County of Clare, 23d Sept. 1822.

No one who has not witnessed it, can conceive the distress of the people for clothing of every kind, and even immediately around us, where there is more employment provided

for them than in any other part of the county. My daughter was quite shocked on making a close search into their houses; the want of blankets, even amongst those who would not allow their names to be entered on the schedules, is quite dreadful, and our dispensary physician says, that great as are their sufferings for want of clothing, they are not to be compared with what they labour under from want of night covering.

*From the Parish of Feakle, County of Clare,
28th September, 1822.*

Their wearing apparel is in a very wretched state, and the bed clothes usually in the possession of persons of moderate independence, are hardly known in the neighbourhood. The people cover themselves at night with their great coats and cloaks, which are often damp, and never sufficient for warmth. They are wholly destitute of shoes, and the men and boys who must work out of doors, feel this want very severely.

From the County of Clare, 2d October, 1822.

In many instances their blankets (such as they were) have been sold for provisions; indeed want of comfortable blankets have been, I do believe, to the poor of this country not only a source of misery but of disease; I therefore beg to impress upon your Committee the great advantage and comfort which would result from substituting blankets in a great measure for clothing.

From Kilrush, County of Clare, 4th October, 1822.

I have been but exactly two years resident in this Barony, and I am free to declare, that such wretchedness in the article of day and night clothes (especially the latter) I never saw, nor imagined could prevail among the poor people of any civilized part of the world. Thousands are obliged to lie down on a bundle of old straw in the same tattered

garments they wore in the day, with all their perspiration upon them, if the weather be fine, and with all the wet and rain of the day, when the weather is otherwise.

From the County of Clare, 8th October, 1822.

The Ladies of the Central Committee also desire to express the pleasure they feel at being permitted to apply the funds intrusted to them in distributing clothing through the medium of employment, and they hope that by giving out the raw material, they will be able to meet the views of your Society at less expense than by purchasing in the market.

From the County of Clare, 30th January, 1823.

It is now the duty of our Association to state, that the clothing so humanely provided for this county, has been distributed according to the enclosed scale, and that the Committees formed for its distribution are to be considered as dissolved.

In giving this information, we should consider ourselves unpardonable if we did not express the strong sense of gratitude we feel for the great and noble exertions of England in making this contribution for the necessities of our poor, and although on the sub-division the proportion to each parish may seem small, and not at all commensurate to the wants of the people, we are well aware what an arduous undertaking it was, to provide the supply which has been sent to the numerous parishes of ten counties, and we must again express the deep sense of gratitude we feel, not only to those who have contributed this clothing, but also to those who undertook the laborious office of collecting, arranging, and apportioning these contributions.

We have the pleasure to inform your Committee, that 15 permanent district Associations have grown out of the Clothing Committees, and that two Ladies residing in parts of the country, where they have been unable to form associations, have offered their services in the cause of benevolence.

From the County of Clare, 1st April, 1823.

I beg to inform you that I have relieved upwards of five hundred persons in the parishes of Kilmanakeen, Kilshanny, and Killilagh, with the charity clothing ; a few were able to give half price which I took, to extend the charity as much as possible, for I bought and gave to them that could not pay any thing ; but so miserable were they in Kilshanny that not one could give me even half price.

Extract of a Letter from Cork.

Our Committee 'met on the sixth day, and was well attended ; many enquired for thee, and regretted thy departure, particularly on one account ; forty-one poor creatures walked into Cork from near Bantry, about 24 miles, to see thee, and to request thy forwarding their grateful thanks to the Ladies Society in London, for the great comfort they have experienced by the bed clothes and wearing apparel ; the latter they were dressed in, and headed by their Parish Priest ; it was very grateful to us to see such a disposition prevalent, and has induced us to hope, that much benefit will arise to our poor disconsolate peasantry. We are about purchasing blankets and straw, and although our means will fall short of the claims, yet some will feel the comforting effects.

From the County of Cork.

In this and the neighbouring parishes, the greatest degree of distress known in the county of Cork, has I think been felt. During the last summer numbers of poor women came from time to time to the Glebe, to beg the sacks in which the biscuits came, to make petticoats ; an old woman living near the Glebe got one, dyed it a dark colour, and constantly wore it going to church, till the clothing arrived, when she got a more comfortable garment.

From the County of Cork.

The general clothing has arrived and been distributed; very many indeed were the applicants who were "sent empty away," yet I have no hesitation in saying, that by far the greatest part of the *urgent distress* for clothing, according to the idea of an Irish woman, has been relieved, and though some have been unavoidably disappointed, many are truly grateful; one venerable old man, who had seen better days, received a coat, and the next morning walked two miles through severe snow to thank the Ladies Committee for it, after which he reverently took off his hat and kneeling down implored the blessing of God on the benevolent English Ladies, who had sent it.

*From Dunmanway, County of Cork,
14th September, 1822.*

The people of this neighbourhood, though they have suffered less from want of food than in other parts of Ireland, are yet reduced by a variety of circumstances to an extreme and alarming degree of indigence. There are many families, the females of which cannot go abroad from want of clothing; and when this is the case with the Irish peasant, their want must be extreme. The peasantry have now food, that is potatoes, but the pressure of an extreme poverty not only continues but increases. Under these circumstances, and at this season of the year, the supply of clothing furnished by the considerate benevolence of the Ladies of England, is a timely and fortunate relief.

*From Crookhaven, County of Cork,
16th September, 1822.*

I assure you, Ladies, I am at a loss for words to give you and your charitable Committee, a just idea of the naked and truly pitiable state of at least one thousand of our poor country women, some of them near and others over one hundred years of age, and not as many old rags as would shelter an infant. I do not believe that there are in any part of Ireland, so many poor naked females as in this part of the county of Cork.

*From the Ladies Committee, Inniscarra, County of
Cork, 7th October, 1822.*

The Ladies Committee of this parish beg to acknowledge the receipt of £10 transmitted to them by desire of the Ladies Committee in London, which they will expend in the purchase of wool, to be given out to such of the poor as are able to spin, and are most in want of such assistance. They are confident that such a system would be productive of the best effect, and is infinitely preferable to any gratuitous distribution of clothing, because by such assistance the greater part of the females of the parish would be enabled by their own industry to provide articles for their clothing, and that of their children and families.

*From Castle Townsend, County of Cork,
12th October, 1822.*

The number of females in absolute want of clothing, and of which the Committee have taken a list, amounts to fifteen hundred and thirty-seven, many of whom are confined to their wretched hovels for want of the smallest covering, and also several families in fever.

From Weston, County of Cork, 18th October, 1822.

Having heard of your kind intentions, I feel I should not be doing my duty either to you or the poor of this parish, did I not bring to your notice their still existing wants in the article of clothes. I know several in want of wearing apparel, and some without the necessary covering of bed clothes, having been obliged to sell every thing they possessed to procure food before they received the assistance from your country, so humanely extended upon the knowledge of their wretched situation. A case has come within my immediate notice of a poor woman who has been, and still continues in the extremity of sickness, not having a blanket to cover her.

*From the Union of Tracton, County of Cork,
29th October, 1822.*

The difficulty of procuring subsistence last summer, obliged many to dispose of every saleable article they possessed; not only their wearing apparel, but also their bed clothes, which must be considered a great privation in any part of the country, but especially here, where fuel is so scarce that the poor find it impossible to procure sufficient to supply their wants.

From the County of Cork, 23d January, 1823.

In replying through you to the queries of the London Committee, I take the same opportunity of requesting you to forward my most unfeigned thanks to our munificent English friends for the comfortable and timely supply of clothing, which came here during the last snowy week, and was distributed among many of their desolate shivering, but very grateful fellow creatures.

*From Ballyshannon, County of Cork,
23d January, 1823.*

I have the pleasure of announcing the arrival of a bale of clothing. As we have proved our plan of requiring as many as are able to pay for whatever they are most in need of, attended with the greatest advantages to the poor people themselves, I shall strenuously urge on my friends the expediency of disposing of your donation in the same way, and with the amount of what they produce, form a fund for the purchase of blankets, to be paid for also by instalments.

From the County of Cork, 22d March, 1823.

The Kilnagross and Temple Brian Committee have much pleasure in returning thanks in the name of the poor of their parishes, for the clothing distributed amongst them.

Nothing could equal the willingness of the poor to purchase the clothes, and those who had not the means of doing so, offered to work for them, and in some instances did so.

From Tentrim, County of Galway.

The clothing arrived in perfect order ; you mentioned to have a small price affixed to each article, but you will excuse me I hope for not complying in this instance, for the poverty of this country is such, that those who wanted linen, &c. a tattered petticoat being their only covering, I am convinced could not offer me 5d. or 10d. to purchase both these articles ; therefore the consequence would be, that those who were in abject distress could procure no relief, and those who wanted least would get the clothing. On these grounds alone I have used my influence to give them gratuitously ; it would have been a grateful sight to your benevolent Committee to witness the extacy of the poor creatures when dressed in their first comfortable and civilized apparel. I divided the articles singly to widows and mothers, in order to make the relief more extensive.

*From Renvyle, County of Galway,
13th January, 1823.*

Since I had the pleasure of sending you the account of £50 given to me by the Archbishop of Tuam, and distributed in clothing to the poor people of this neighbourhood, I have received an additional £50, which has been partly made up and given out to the poor people of the Killeries ; and £10. 15s. from the Ladies Committee, I laid out in flannel, to be sold at a reduced price to those poor women whom I knew to have earned the money by their personal industry, whether by needle work or spinning. The flannel has been eagerly bought at eight-pence per yard. The spinning-wheels sent to me I likewise lend or sell at a low price, but never give.

*From His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, dated
4th February, 1823.*

The whole of the clothing sent here by your Ladies Committee has been divided among the Ladies in your list.

It is with much satisfaction I receive all communications from you and your benevolent Committee; my hearty desire is to co-operate with you in the arduous and blessed work you have undertaken. I wish I may appear to you a faithful agent.

From Shantalla, near Galway, 6th February, 1823.

The Ladies of the Galway Dorcas Society present their most sincere and grateful thanks to the benevolent Ladies of the London Committee, for the large and excellent supply of useful clothing, which has been forwarded to them by his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam.

From the County of Galway, 3d March, 1823.

My regret that indisposition should so long have hindered me from offering you my sincere thanks for the clothing consigned by your benevolent Committee to me, for the benefit of the poor of this district, can only be equalled by my inability to express those thanks in terms adequate to the feelings which dictate them. The Ladies of my Committee and myself expected but a very small proportion of clothing, from the modesty with which you were always pleased to speak of your very munificent donation, but that which we received very much exceeded our expectations, and enabled us to be your agents in relieving one hundred families, whose prayers for your welfare are as sincere as they are unceasing.

I cannot conclude without saying, for myself and the Ladies of my Committee, that it is our sincere hope and fervent wish, that the bonds of gratitude and affection which have, during the last year, so closely united us to our fellow subjects of England, may ever continue as strong and as vigorous as they are at present.

*From A. B. Rowan, Esq. Tralee, County of Kerry,
22d January, 1823.*

I have sometime since given the clothing to the Ladies Committee, who are now in progress of dividing it;—it is more in quantity than was expected, and far superior in quality to what the poor here are in the habit of providing for themselves.

From Tralee, County of Kerry, 18th February, 1823.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the clothing transmitted by your Committee to this county, has been distributed by the Ladies Association here, in strict conformity to the rule recommended in your letter, each Barony having received a share proportioned to its population. The £600 sent to Mr. Rowan, and by him divided among the Gentlemen's Committees, has been in many cases handed over to the Ladies.

Our Association strongly recommended to the Ladies of the Baronies to sell the clothes, and attempt the establishment of some permanent relief of the poor of the county.

I am sure you will be pleased to learn that in some of the principal towns of the county, measures have been adopted for the purpose of continuing the relief so generally commenced on your side of the water. In this town a repository has been opened for the sale of the share of clothing allotted to this parish, and our portion of the £600 has been expended for the purpose of encouraging industry, and keeping up the sale of articles of dress.

From the County of Leitrim, 9th September, 1822.

It is, I presume, unnecessary to inform your Committee of the great distress that for some months past pervaded every part of this country, and which, though relieved to a very considerable extent by the abundant crop now coming in, yet is still very severely felt, particularly by single females and widows, who have no other resource than their labour for support; these are not only in want of clothing,

but many would also be at this moment in actual want of food in the midst of abundance (from the difficulty of procuring employment) were it not that our Local Committee are enabled to employ about 900 of them in spinning linen yarn, and for which they appear most unfeignedly grateful, though only enabled to earn about twopence farthing per diem.

*From the County of Leitrim,
30th July, 1822.*

I do not hesitate to say, that the good likely to result from the proposed plan of spinning wool and weaving coarse articles for winter covering for our poor, is of the first importance, and is a further proof of the provident care and indefatigable attention of your Committee to our real wants.

*From the Central Committee of the County of Leitrim,
5th August, 1822.*

The attention of this Committee has been particularly engaged in ascertaining the situation of the claimants, and the result of their enquiry is so far satisfactory as to find, that but in few instances it can be said there has been much exaggeration, and that it appears in every parish there is a great want of clothing and blankets; in several of them it approaches to absolute nudity.

*At a Meeting of the Ladies of Mohill and its Vicinity,
County of Leitrim, 7th September, 1822,*

Resolved,

That our Treasurer and the several members of our Committee, be requested to solicit subscriptions, to enable us to make some addition, to whatever grant of clothing may be received from the Ladies Committee in London.

That we cannot avoid our highest admiration of, and gratitude for, the great and unparalleled exertions of our British

fellow subjects of all ranks and denominations, for relief of our distressed poor, without which aid we are convinced multitudes must have perished.

From the County of Limerick.

On the 11th of November this Committee commenced the distribution of clothing. The instalments paid in for these articles amount to £1. 4s. 3½d. In order to enable the poor to pay the instalments, the Committee give out flax to be spun once a week. One woman has already earned enough to pay for a petticoat, which she got on the 11th November, and on the 2d of December she was given another article, being owed fourpence more than the value of the petticoat. Another woman, who was at first employed in spinning wool, has been paid since the 7th of October 5s. 8d. in money; she has worked out the price of a woollen wheel, and on Monday being owed six-pence, she was given a petticoat.

The Committee have now in employ about fifty spinners, and they expect the number will encrease.

*From Kilmallock, County of Limerick,
23d July, 1822.*

Persons of this description are (as is naturally to be supposed) without bed clothes, without body clothes, except a parcel of old rags calculated to spread infection; commonly also they have not sufficient covering from the inclemency of the weather; the light of day is to be seen through every part of their huts, and the rain pouring in torrents on their very bed (if a sop of straw may be denominated such) and the almost total want of fuel in the very depth of winter. I beg likewise to call your attention to another matter. There are several poor children, both male and female, almost in a state of perfect nudity.

*From the County of Limerick,
3d October, 1822.*

The Ladies of the Limerick Association, having completed their enquiry into the state of the poor in that city, beg leave to communicate the result to the Committee of Ladies in London. That so great a number should be in a state of absolute poverty, and totally destitute either of clothes or bedding, and in many instances of both, is a statement the Ladies of the Limerick Association would not venture to make, had not they examined every house in a manner that rendered deception nearly impossible. In most cases it appeared that the poor had pawned their clothes during the summer to buy food, and had not been able to redeem them in consequence of the want of employment.

*From Castlebar, County of Mayo,
20th July, 1822.*

I beg to inform the Committee, that in consequence of the very severe distress which has generally prevailed in this district, the females are peculiarly deserving of protection; a great portion of them have been discharged from employment, without means to procure the common necessities of life, and have been actually under the painful necessity of selling their clothes to procure sustenance, and a great portion of them are at this present time almost in a state of nudity. I much fear if clothing is not provided for them, many may be sacrificed by the inclemency of the weather.

*From the County of Mayo,
3d September, 1822.*

I beg leave to return my thanks for the honour you have done me in desiring my assistance towards promoting one of the many charities which have been so generously bestowed by our friends in England on the wretched inhabitants of this country, and to assure you that we are all deeply impressed with gratitude for the relief which has been so seasonably given, and which I am persuaded has been the

means of saving the lives of thousands. I trust we shall be able to distribute the supply of clothing, which the ladies of England so liberally bestow, to the best advantage, among the numerous females who are almost naked in this distressed part of the country, and whose gratitude is unbounded for the continued affectionate and liberal care which you have shewn towards them.

*From Foxford, County of Mayo,
October 5th, 1822.*

I had the honour of receiving your letter, and should feel most happy were it in my power to give any assistance, or information, that would be of service towards forwarding your truly benevolent and charitable intentions, respecting my poor destitute country-women, who I lament to say are in a miserable state for want of warm clothing, or covering, either by night or day, to protect them from the severity of the winter, now fast approaching. I have seen some instances in this miserable village and its neighbourhood, where the poor sufferers have lost the use of their limbs after a fever, for want of warm clothing or covering.

*From Castlebar, County of Mayo,
January 2d, 1823.*

Many families are at this inclement season without any covering for their beds, except from such scraps of clothing or old worn-out sacks as they can collect in their cabins. The poor who have been assisted with clothing are unceasing in their prayers and thanks to those who, though strangers to them, have been so mindful of their necessities.

*From Boyle, County of Roscommon,
February 10th, 1823.*

I should ere this have answered your last obliging letter, but waited to receive my share of the clothing for the poor Irish. I have got 20 articles from the Boyle Parochial Com-

mittee, some of them most comfortable, and all of great use ; I have distributed them faithfully to the best of my judgment without partiality, and have made a return to the Secretary, of the article, name, and place of abode ; I have also got my share of flax spun, and given to the weaver, and have a second in hand. I shall be happy at all times to co-operate and do all in my power to comply with your letter.

*From the Rev. William Urwick, Sligo,
February 19th, 1823.*

Mrs. U. requests I will state, that the clothing was distributed on Tuesday last, and the Ladies of our Dorcas Society feel highly gratified and honoured in being made the almoners of your liberality. It could have been committed to the care of none whose acquaintance with the wants of the poor in respect of clothing, qualifies them better for ascertaining the most necessitous objects, or whose conduct in the administration of relief gives more general satisfaction.

*From Nenagh, County of Tipperary,
22d January, 1823.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of 94 articles of wearing apparel, forwarded by the Committee at Tipperary, for the poor peasantry of the Barony of Tower Ormond.

It would be impossible for me adequately to express the mingled feelings of admiration and gratitude, which fill the hearts of those who have been so humanely considered by their generous English friends at this inclement season : after such unbounded liberality it is with pain I am forced to communicate, that the wants of our peasantry, as to clothing, are very severe indeed.

*From Clogheen, County of Tipperary,
29th January, 1823.*

We beg to acknowledge having received from the Central Committee in Tipperary 62 articles of clothing, transmitted from the London Committee, being the portion allotted for five parishes of the Barony of Iffa and Offa West. These we have distributed, and endeavoured to do it with as much discrimination as possible, amongst the numerous objects which came under our notice, together with about 140 additional articles obtained by means of local subscriptions.

We cannot forbear expressing our admiration of the benevolent feelings evinced towards the wretched suffering peasantry of the sister kingdom, and though we are aware that any thing done in this way amongst such a mass of population must fall short of effective relief, we trust the exertions that have been made, and the interest that has been excited, may prove a medium of introducing that spirit of improvement amongst them which may eventually be productive of greater benefits.

*From Cashel, County of Tipperary,
29th May, 1823.*

You will recollect that on the 28th September, 1822, the sum of ten pounds was forwarded to me by desire of the Ladies' Committee, associated for the purpose of procuring clothing for poor females in this neighbourhood by means of their own industry, and as the money has now been applied according to the intentions of the donors, I beg leave to inform you of that circumstance, and to say that the Ladies' Committee in this place purchased with a portion of that money,—stone of wool; that the wool was spun by the poor themselves, who were duly paid for their labour; that it was then wove into blanketting, and after tucking and cleansing, the costs of which operation was defrayed out of the remainder of the money, that thirteen large substantial blankets, such as are found the most useful covering for the poor, whose other bedding is generally scanty and ill-prepared, were distributed by the ladies to the most necessitous. I should also add that I received from Doctor Armstrong, of Tipperary, 75 articles of clothing, to be distributed in nine parishes in this neighbourhood. That a communication was opened with the clergy of these parishes, and that such a distribution was made as appeared most judicious, according to the population and circumstances of each.

*From Bellurbet, County of Cavan,
October 10th, 1822.*

A penny a week society has existed among us for a few years past, the annual amount of which, averaging about £12, has been expended in the purchase of blankets and cloaks. Our income being small, the relief we have been able to afford has consequently been very limited, by no means sufficient to meet the pressing demands made upon us. The want of clothing presents a complete bar to the education of our poor. We have schools, but a considerable number of our poor children cannot attend for want of covering, and for the same reason many of our peasantry cannot attend divine service.

*From Killesandra, County of Cavan,
January 9th, 1823.*

We can with truth state that numbers are in the utmost want of covering, and that the blankets and flannels we have already distributed, are totally inadequate to the misery that prevails among them, particularly the sick, some of whom my son has been afraid would literally die for want of covering, if he did not send them some immediately on his return from visiting them.

*From Drumholme, County of Donegal,
September 21st, 1822.*

We acknowledge most gratefully your kind communication respecting the Ladies' Association in London. Their benevolent plan of clothing the poor reduced and destitute female peasantry of this country, will contribute more to the relief of distress, than any other mode of charity whatever. They are so totally unprovided with any warm covering, that the approach of winter already fills them with apprehension, indeed, some relief is absolutely necessary to the existence of many, who must otherwise perish from their consumptive

and rheumatic habits, induced by their exposure to cold and damp, living in huts which afford little protection from the wind or rains, and lying on a scanty portion of straw, on damp earthen floors, with (in many cases) but one blanket to shelter a whole family.

*From Ballyshannon, County of Donegal,
February 24th, 1823.*

I have great satisfaction in acquainting you, that your donation of clothing has been appropriated to the very purpose for which it was given—the promotion of industry. A value was put on each article, and nothing given away, except in a few extreme cases, where a poor woman was not able to work, or pay for what she required.

I have the assurance of the most respectable and humane people in this town, that the applications for relief from what are here called poor housekeepers are considerably decreased, and that there is no doubt, if our spinning fund can be kept up, but that the habit of seeking assistance from other sources than their own industry will be completely changed in the poor of this place. We can, I am happy to say, contradict a reproach that is often made to the poor, “that they would rather beg than work,” for so great is the willingness they shew here to work, that we have among our spinners, a blind man and blind woman, both spinning for clothing, which they had no means of obtaining before, but by begging.

Our spinners have increased to an hundred and twelve, and every week brings some new applications, at least as many have been relieved by comfortable clothing. Miss C. and I give up one day in the week to take in yarn, pay for spinning, and distribute flax and clothing; when the weather permits we go with some more of our young friends to the houses of the poor, for two or three miles about town, to see how they are getting on, to prevail on them to send their children to school, and to examine into any new case of distress that has been recommended to our attention. There must unavoidably be many cases in which we can be of little service; we meet with many things to disgust and discourage us, but endeavouring in our humble way to promote the glory of him who redeemed us; knowing the duty of visiting the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and reflecting on the high privilege conferred on us, through your instrumentality, we

go on courageously, and every day have cause to bless the names of our kind benefactors who have made us the agents of their beneficence where it was so much required ; the concluding remark in Archdeacon Jebb's letter, speaks, I am sure, the general feeling, that the people of this country overflow, with gratitude to their English friends.

*From the County of Fermanagh,
31st January, 1823.*

In a parish circumstanced as this is, with scarcely a resident gentleman and covered with poor, uneducated, and in a great measure unemployed, the parcel you sent proved a most acceptable donation. I cannot express my feelings of gratitude to Providence and you for the relief. I wish we may have judgment to distribute them, so as not only to relieve but promote industry.

From King's County, February 8th, 1823.

I have the pleasure of informing you that I yesterday received in good order a bale of clothing from your Committee.

We have to return your society our warmest thanks for this very seasonable supply of clothing during this inclement season.

From King's County, July 10th, 1823.

The donation which your Committee were kind enough to send, has, I trust, (though small) been the means of laying the foundation of an eminently useful and permanent fund for clothing the poor, and has given rise to a considerable manufacture of linen and woollen cloth, fit for the wear of the peasantry, and all of which has been spun and wove by the poorest class, and given to them in exchange at the lowest valuation, made up in our school into shifts, shirts, petticoats, &c. and the people are most happy and delighted to be thus employed and enabled to be clothed, and their children who were literally many of them without covering from the want of provisions last year.

Our cheap shop is managed by a serjeant of the reduced staff of the King's County Militia and his wife, too much advanced in life to be able to earn a subsistence by labour, or work.

*From the County of Westmeath,
November 12th, 1822.*

We can truly state, that in a small circuit near Kinnegad, where the Counties of Meath and Westmeath meet, there may be found nearly two hundred women, and three times that number of children, in a most deplorable want of clothing, many of the latter in a perfect state of nudity.

*From Kilbeggan, County of Westmeath,
31st December, 1822.*

We have again to assure those truly benevolent personages that many of those for whom we are now soliciting, parted with their covering, particularly blanketing, previous to the relief afforded them last summer, and that it was only when disease made its formidable appearance, that this was discovered in its fullest extent by the medical attendants, and is but too general among the working classes. To this source of want, is owing the fevers and other incidental complaints of the poor to which they are so prevalent ; for, after standing out all day in the wet and rain, when returning to their cabins at night, the clothes they wear, soaked and often wringing wet, serve them for covering in the night, the consequences may well be imagined that must ensue to those truly unfortunate people.

REPORT
OF A
MEMBER OF THE LADIES COMMITTEE,
CONTAINING SOME
OBSERVATION ON THE
STATE OF THE
PEASANTRY IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

*To the Central Committee of the British and Irish
Ladies Society.*

IN acknowledging your kind proposal, that I should convey, in writing, some account of my late visit to the South and West of Ireland, I feel aware that I am solely indebted to your candour and indulgence, in so far uniting with a proceeding merely voluntary; and which had nothing official in its character, by which it might be recommended to your notice.

Having earnestly desired the opportunity of forming a judgment of the state of the Irish peasantry from actual observation, and well assured that my friends in Ireland, would kindly aid my inquiries, on a subject on which they had (I knew) felt long and deeply interested, I concluded to pass a few months of the winter in and near the province of Munster, and to visit some of the abodes of the peasantry, both in the cities, and in the more thinly peopled districts.

The time thus engaged was, from about the end of the year until the fifth month (May), during which I visited parts of each of the counties in Munster, excepting Kerry, and a few places in Leinster. A little time was spent in Dublin, both on landing, and previous to my return to England.

In the city and county of Limerick; in the city of Waterford; in Mountmelick, Portarlinton and Maryborough, I was kindly invited to unite in the formation of District or County Associations, from which, reports of the regulations adopted have been conveyed to the Central Committee. In the City of Cork, and in the counties of Clare and Tipperary, I had the satisfaction of attending Committees already formed; and in several places had the opportunity of visiting the peasantry in their cabins, and in their miserable rooms in the old parts of cities.

I do not conceive it possible for any language or picture of destitution, to have conveyed to my mind the impressions received from the *actual sight* of the peasantry, as they at present exist. The wretched cabin, built by the hard strained efforts of extreme poverty, is destitute of almost every thing that could mark any attainment of civilized life. The yet more miserable room, in a lane of the city, each corner of which is, in many cases, occupied by a separate family, lodging four, five or six together, on one mouldering portion of straw, insufficient for the nightly accommodation of a single *animal*, and with little or no covering, but the tattered garments of the day; here they breathe, night and day, a tainted sickly atmosphere, and in such abodes the frequent prevalence of fever is indeed no matter of surprise. Numbers of families of this description are supporting life, by means the most distressingly precarious; seeking employment, and earnestly soliciting it, at even the lowest rate, yet compelled to spend the chief portion of their time, however reluctantly, in idleness, and in consequent destitution and misery. Yet, there is a feeling of generous kindness in the Irish peasant, that shines and is beautiful amidst all the depressing circumstances with which he is surrounded. The peasant out of his poverty, is the supporter of the destitute, so long as he has a single morsel to share with him; and thus it is that life has been preserved, and many kept from day to day from perishing for want.

That employment is the great resource to be contemplated, for the improvement of the people, is generally acknowledged; and let it not be supposed, that the attain-

ment of this great object will be impossible, even though many difficulties may appear. Could the mothers of families be furnished with the means of putting their industry into action, how great is the *demand* for the occupation of that industry, in providing clothing for themselves and their now destitute families; and in the progress of supplying this demand, how many hands, in addition to their own, would soon be furnished with the benefits and advantages of occupation! It is in the consumption of the labouring classes, who form, as to numbers, the great mass of society, that the best resource must be found for the exercise of healthful and salutary industry. In proportion as these are brought into a state to support a regular demand for clothing, and for the simple accommodations of civilized life, the supply of this demand, will necessarily induce that general action of industry and commerce, which will convey riches and strength to every department of society.

It is truly grateful to observe, that in the course of inquiries into the state of families visited, by the Local Associations, as suggested by the rules of the British and Irish Ladies Society, female education and the occupation of juvenile industry, are likely to be much promoted wherever the Local Associations are formed. The existing Institutions for education will give much facility to the establishment of Schools, where they are found to be wanting, and there is no doubt, that when the peasantry can obtain a sufficiency of employment, they will gladly contribute their own part toward the support of the Schools.

The kind solicitude with which the upper classes of society in Ireland, are directing their attention to the improvement and well-being of the peasantry; the communication opened with them by the visiting Committees,* and the good effects

* It is very desirable that difficulties which may sometimes arise, from the apparent listlessness in the peasantry, should not cause visitors hastily to relinquish their attempt as hopeless. A little perseverance in pointing out the sources of advantage and improvement, may often cause the difficulty that first presented to subside and give way. Two visitors wishing to try in one instance, how the proposals of the Committee would be received, for renovating the forlorn rooms by whitewashing, and introducing employment for the females, called at a very poor desolate habitation in the old town of Limerick, to enquire into the situation of one of the families who dwelt there. The walls of the room, into which they entered, were dyed with smoke, and hung with spider's webs, and the colour of the floor itself had evidently not been seen for a long time past. After learning something of the occupation of the father, who had but little and uncertain employment, and of the number of children, &c. one of the visitors remarked, that the walls

already seen to result from this communication, give ground to hope for great good from the Associations, if supported, as we cannot doubt that they will be. The different classes of professing Christians uniting together, in the prosecution of a widely extended work of benevolence, in which all are interested, will become better known to each other, and disposed to acknowledge and to meet with that which is good in all.

Although the grants conveyed to this Society, in its present early stage, have been generous and liberal, yet the object of the Institution is too comprehensive to be carried into full effect, without continued and powerful aid from the British public, in conjunction with the efforts of your correspondents in Ireland, to obtain local funds. Unless means can be provided, for furnishing *general occupation* to the mothers of families, the office of visitor will be a very painful engagement. It is well known that the Associations do not offer gratuitous assistance, and all that the poor women solicit from the Committees is employment. The great deficiency is the want of wheels, and a little flax or wool to begin the occupation of each; could these be provided for all, there are resources for employment to an undefined extent, in the demand for linen yarn of a common quality, which the female peasantry would gladly supply, although

of the room were very much in want of white-washing, and enquired whether the mother could not do it for herself, if the white-lime were given, and a brush for the purpose lent to her. She languidly replied, "Ah, if you'll give me the price of the lime, I'd rather use it for the potatoes, and put the bit in my mouth; I can think of nothing else." The visitor answered, that it was very unhealthy to live in a room so dirty, and might cause a fever; and that the white-washing would cost nothing, if materials were given. The poor woman had a sickly dispirited countenance, and her listlessness might arise in part from want. She was asked if she could spin, she answered that none could excel her in spinning, but she had not a wheel,"—"could she not borrow one?"—"none of the neighbours had one to lend." "But suppose the ladies were to lend her one, could she not then spin and earn something for herself?" On this her countenance brightened up in a moment, and she earnestly replied, "Ah! if you'll lend me a wheel, *and let me spin*, I'll white-wash or do any thing you please!" The next day, one of the visitors again calling at the house, found that the poor woman had been so aroused, by the hope of employment, that she had without delay applied to the Board of Health, and obtained materials for white-washing her room, saying that she wanted to make it quite clean before the Ladies called again, and had already begun her work. It was agreed that the loan of a wheel should be immediately allowed to her.

on terms so low, as not usually to afford more than twopence a day in payment. The manufacture of coarse clothing, into which some of the Associations have entered, will also furnish another valuable source of occupation.

I have remarked on the present miserable form of the cabins, as attributable to the *extreme poverty of the tenants by whom they are built*; and the peasantry being accustomed to this wretched kind of dwelling, has no doubt a great influence on their general habits. On some estates the tenants are assisted in building their cabins by gifts of timber from the landlord, which, though easily given by the proprietor from his estate, afford material assistance to the poor tenant.

I was informed of a number of people in some of the mountain districts, whom I had not the opportunity to visit, who driven from their little holdings by inability to pay their rent, had cast up very slight huts on the uncultivated ground, and were living there in great misery. The object in resorting to such stations is, to recover a piece of land for the cultivation of potatoes, and to dwell in these places, as they are allowed to do for a time, without the payment of rent. The forlorn state of the habitations thus described, could not, I think, surpass that of some I saw on the bog lands. In one which I entered the bog sunk under my feet even within the dwelling, as well as on the way to it from the open road. On a single stone in this hut was laid a small turf fire, over which sat, bent with weakness, a sickly female who had been confined eight weeks before, and was not yet recovered. Her infant was near, which, with two other children, an aged father, mother, and sister, formed a family of *eight* in this one miserable room, and in times of rain and snow, the water was draining upon them in many courses through the roof. My heart sunk within me to see human nature in such a state of pitiable suffering and degradation; and I was only consoled in the belief, that some generous measures for the effectual relief and improvement of the state of the peasantry would certainly be adopted, and that a state so wretched, so unworthy of civilized society, would not much longer continue to exist in the British Empire.

May our hope and trust be directed to the great Parent of the Universe, and in acknowledging the claims of the lowest, as children of the same family, may the deep responsibility be felt which attaches to every situation in which power is given to help and serve one another.

In the retrospect of my late visit, I feel thankful to Divine Goodness, in permitting what was felt to be so greatly desirable. An interest toward Ireland, long alive in my mind, is now more deeply fixed than ever, and will not, I believe, be effaced by time or distance. The affectionate courtesy of every class in society towards one who was hitherto a stranger among them, will still live in my grateful remembrance.

An Account of Provisions and Seed Potatoes sent by the London Committee for the Relief of Distress in the South and West of Ireland.

Count'y.	Goods.	Weight.		Cost.	Goods.	Weight.		Cost.	Goods.	Weight.		Cost.
		Tons.	cwt.	£.		Tons.	cwt.	£.		Tons.	cwt.	£.
CLARE	Potatoes	339	1	3 14	Meal	362	13	3 0	Rice	107	13	2 27
CORK		715	8	3 22		923	3	0		29	19	0 21
GALWAY		459	1	0 12		285	10	2 14		110	4	3 23
KERRY		467	11	0 0		400	8	2 0		145	12	3 19
LIMERICK		106	2	0 0								
MAYO		610	18	0 14		335	0	0 14		78	4	3 24
SLIGO		263	7	1 12		157	15	0 0				
Totals		2961	10	1 18		1762	11	3 0		471	15	3 2

Goods.	Tons.	cwt.	lbs.	Cost.	£.	s.	d.
Potatoes	2961	10	1 18	Cost	9373	11	5
Meal	1762	11	3 0	ditto	21338	13	2
Rice	471	15	3 2	ditto	5671	1	0
Biscuit	273	4	3 0	ditto	3852	3	3
Total	5469	2	2 20		40,935	8	10
Charges attending the Purchase and Shipment of Potatoes					166	6	0
Total					£40,101	14	10

[illegible]

General Account of Receipts, Disbursements, and Appropriations, for the Relief of Distress in the Southern and Western Provinces of Ireland.

Dr.

Cr.

Brought forward.....		£.	s.	d.	Brought forward.....		£.	s.	d.	Brought forward.....		£.	s.	d.
		204,180	17	5								156,265	5	1
By County of MAYO.														
Remittances.....					Provisions (including Potatoes, Meal, Rice and Biscuit).....		21,180	0	0					
					For the encouragement of Industry in the Manufacture of Flax and Wool.....		6,677	8	2					
							4,500	0	0					
By County of ROSCOMMON.														
Remittances.....					For the encouragement of Industry in the Manufacture of Flax and Wool.....		1,825	0	0			32,657	8	2
							4,000	0	0					
By County of SLIGO.														
Remittances.....					Provisions (including Potatoes, Meal and Biscuit).....		9,055	0	0			15,825	0	0
					For the encouragement of Industry in the Manufacture of Flax and Wool.....		2,627	15	7					
							3,200	0	0					
By County of TIPPERARY.														
Remittances.....					For the encouragement of Industry in the Manufacture of Flax and Wool.....		5,710	0	0			14,882	15	7
							2,500	0	0					
By County of CAVAN.														
Remittances.....												8,210	0	0
By County of DONEGAL.														
Remittances.....												530	0	0
												345	0	0
By County of FERMAGH.														
Remittances.....												60	0	0
												150	0	0
By County of KILKENNY.														
Remittances.....												1,185	0	0
												800	0	0
By County of KING'S COUNTY.														
Remittances.....												25	0	0
												195	0	0
By County of LONDONDERRY.														
Remittances.....												470	0	0
												475	0	0
By County of QUEEN'S COUNTY.														
Remittances.....												100	0	0
												400	0	0
By County of WESTMEATH.														
Remittances.....														
By County of WEXFORD.														
Remittances.....														
By DUBLIN.														
Remittances.....														
Carried forward.....		£. 304,180	17	5	Carried forward.....		£. 232,575	8	10					

General Account of Receipts, Disbursements, and Appropriations, for the Relief of Distress in the Southern and Western Provinces of Ireland.
Dr.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward.....	304,180	17	5
By sundry Remittances in Money for distribution in cases of individual distress	910	0	8
By sundry Grants for Clothing transmitted to Ireland	12,303	5	
By sundry Grants for the encouragement of the Fisheries ..	7,000	0	
By Grant in aid of the funds of the Dublin Mansion House Committee for the relief of the Poor	5,000	0	
By sundry Grants to the British and Irish Ladies Society for improving the condition and promoting the Industry and Welfare of the Female Irish Peasantry ..	6,600	0	
By sundry Grants to the Society in London for improving the condition and increasing the comforts of the Irish Peasantry	5,300	0	
By Grant for the establishment of a Straw Plait Manufactory for employing the Female Peasantry of Ireland ..	1,000	0	
By Charge for Rooms at the City of London Tavern	246	15	0
By Expenses of Agents sent to Ireland ..	937	18	6
By Advertisements	4,386	5	8
By Printing and Stationery	767	8	7
By Rent of Offices, Furniture, &c. in Broad Street	195	17	11
By Discount on £16,924 7/5s. (Bills from India) at 3 per Cent.	243	5	3
By Postages	92	4	11
By Charges of Management	2,185	11	9
By Charges attending the Purchase and Shipment of Potatoes	166	6	0
By miscellaneous Disbursements	229	12	6
	£ 9,451	6	1
	£ 280,140	0	3
	£ 24,040	17	2
	£ 304,180	17	5
Balance on hand in Cash and Bills, 30th August, 1823 ..			
	£ 29,240	11	0

1823.
Aug. 30. To Balance brought forward.....£ 24,040 17 2
To additional remittance from Bombay 5,059 13 10
To.....ditto Calcutta 140 0 0
£ 29,240 11 0

ERRATA.

Page 172, 'line	4,	<i>for</i>	susc.....	<i>read</i>	sure.
197,	6,	....	induded.....		induced.
291,	16,	....	O'Connelly		O'Connell.
305,	42,	....	advancements ..		advances.
314,	32,	....	hogsheards		hogsheads.
335,	23,	....	Tower.....		Lower.